Doll
THE HOTEL DETECTIVE
BY TAKAO SAITO
Vol.1
[ホテル探偵] DOLL
さいとう・たかを

Doll

THE HOTEL DETECTIVE
BY TAKAO SAITO

[ホテル探偵] DOLL

N I G H T M A N A G E R

VOLUME 1

TAKAO SAITO
A SAITO-PRO WORK

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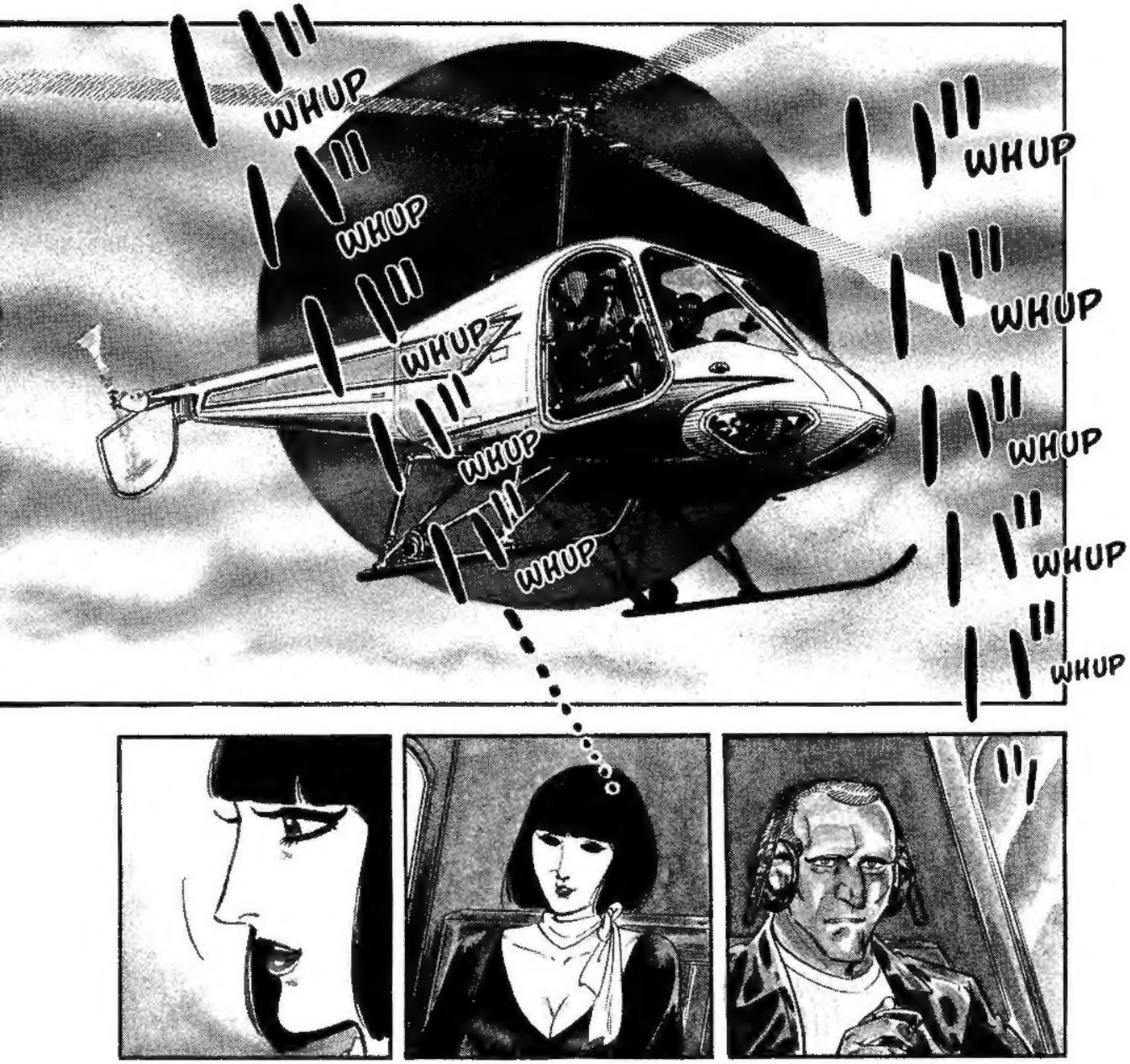
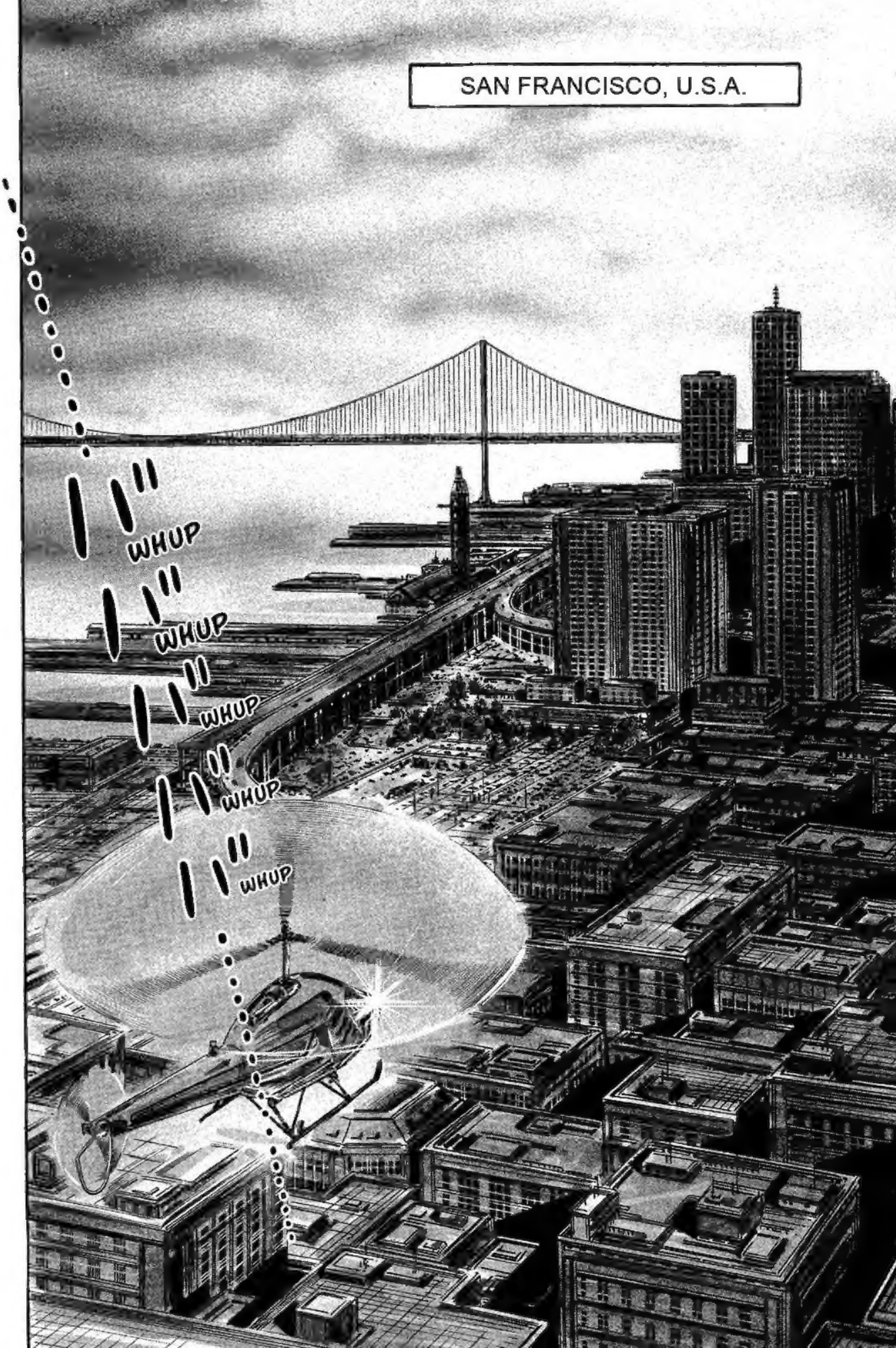
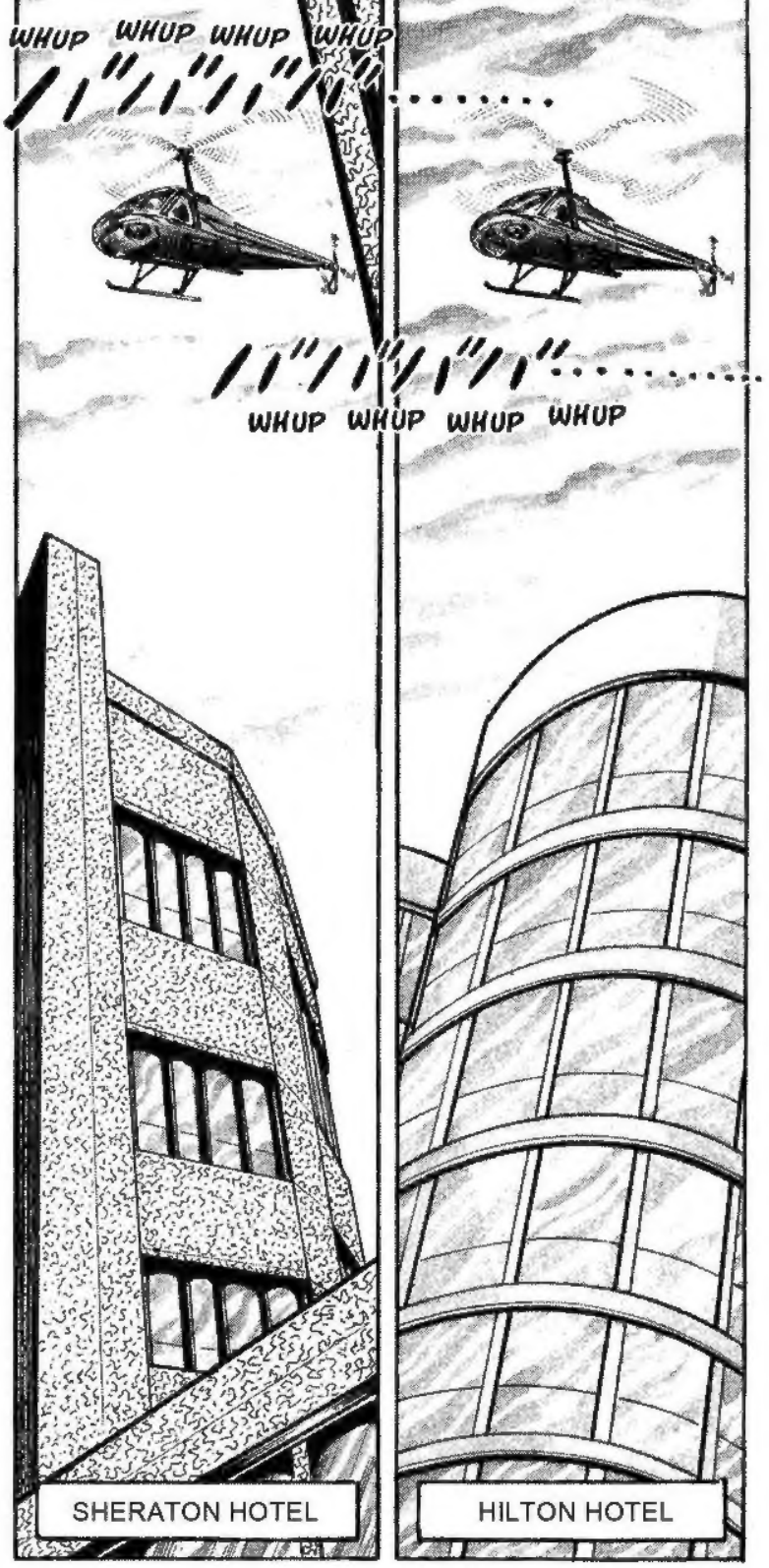
[THESE STORIES ARE ALL FICTION]

#1
BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL




SAN FRANCISCO, U.S.A.
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP



BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
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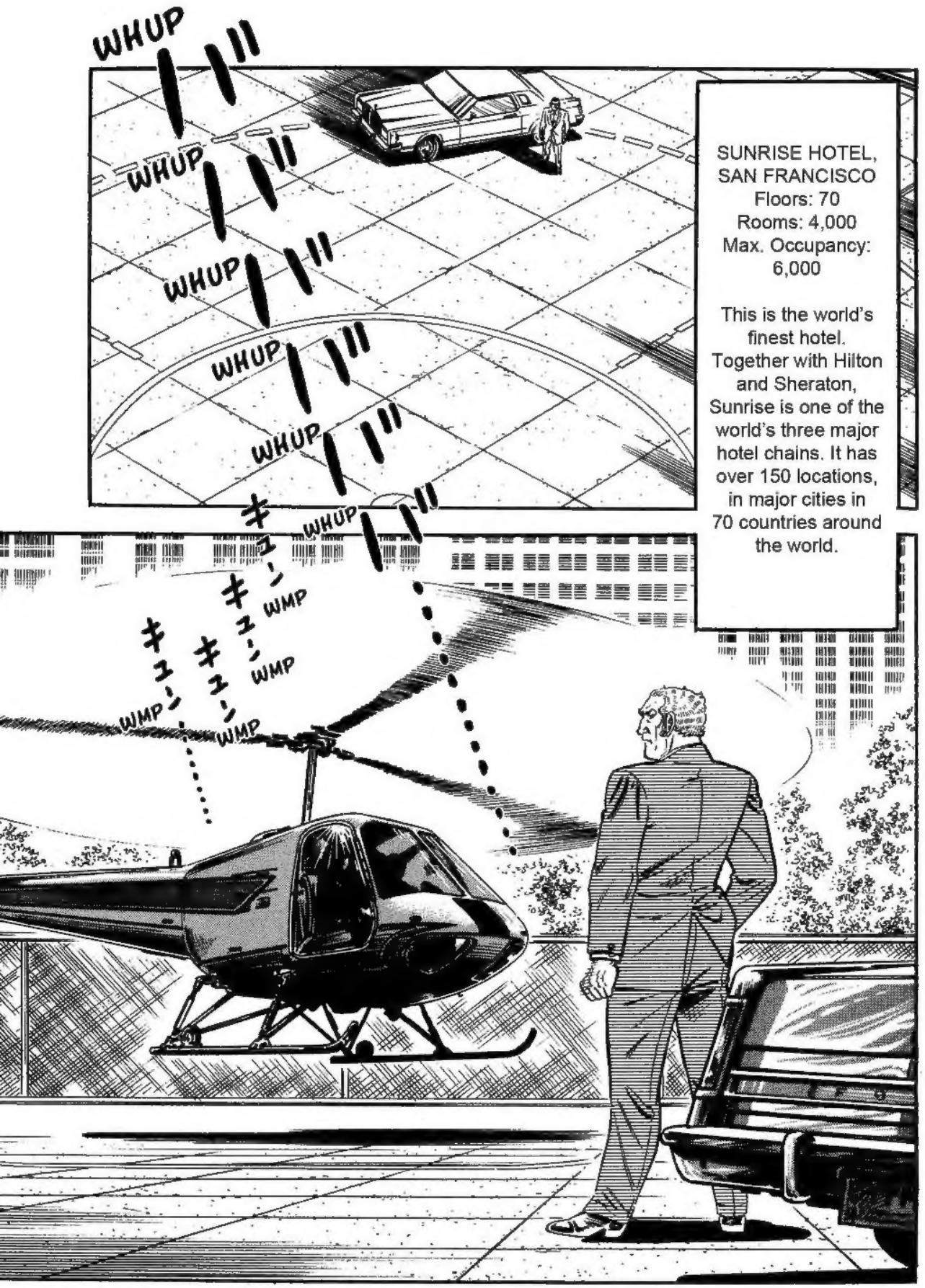
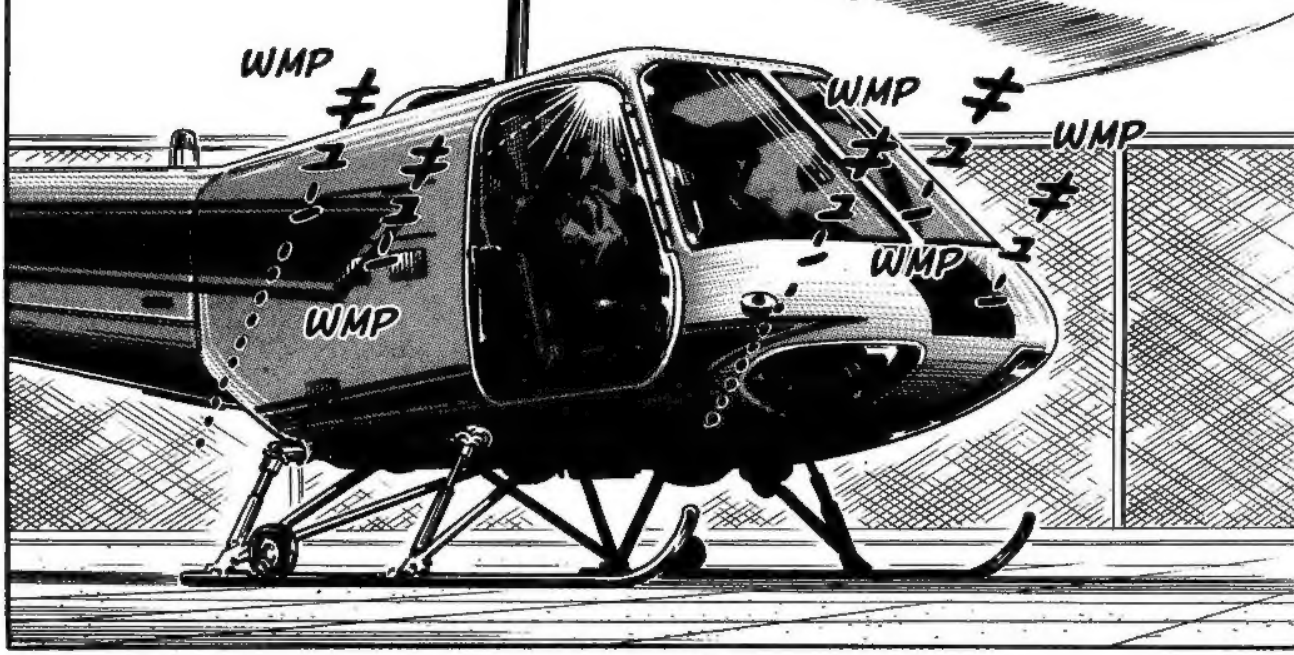
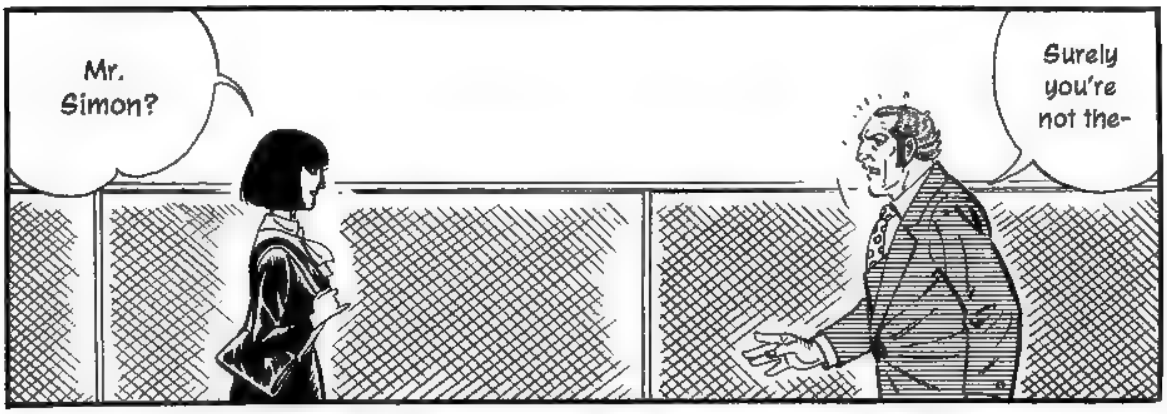
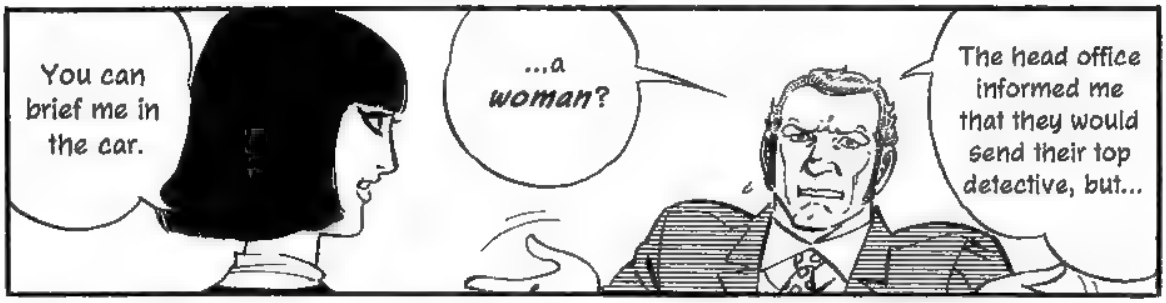
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
SUNRISE HOTEL

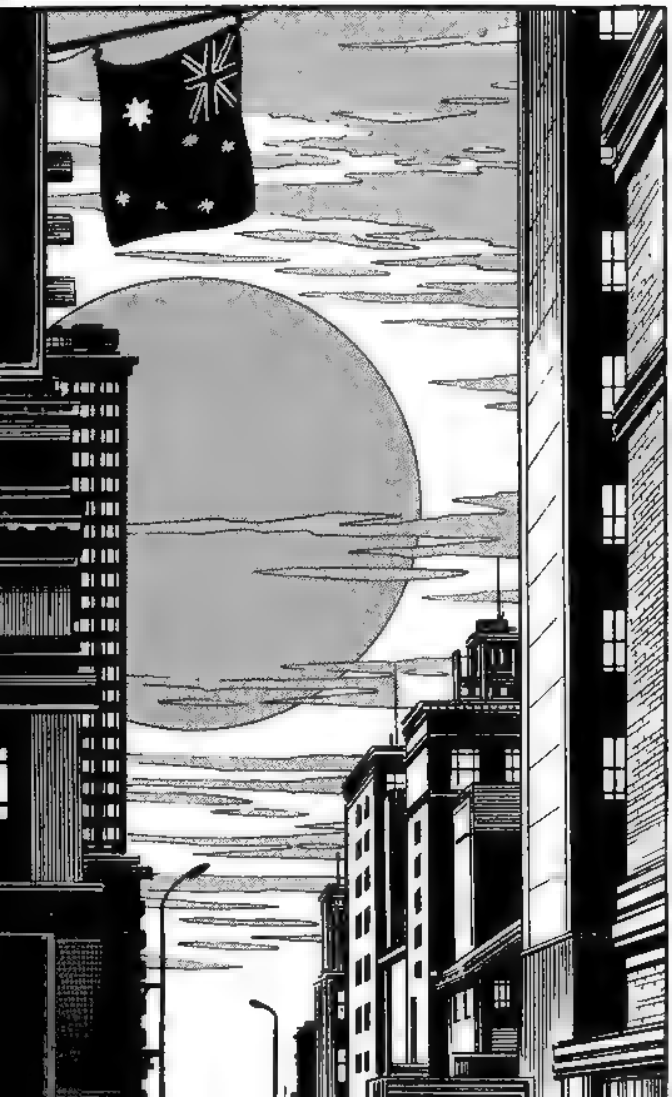

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
キュ～ン
WMP
キュ～ン
WMP
キュ～ン
WMP
SUNRISE HOTEL,
SAN FRANCISCO
Floors: 70
Rooms: 4,000
Max. Occupancy:
6,000
This is the world's finest hotel. Together with Hilton and Sheraton, Sunrise is one of the world's three major hotel chains. It has over 150 locations, in major cities in 70 countries around the world.

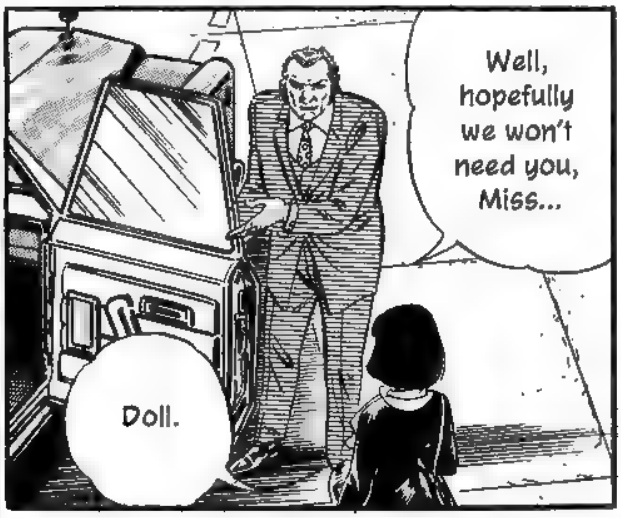

WMP
WMP
WMP
WMP

!!


Mr. Simon?
Surely you're not the-

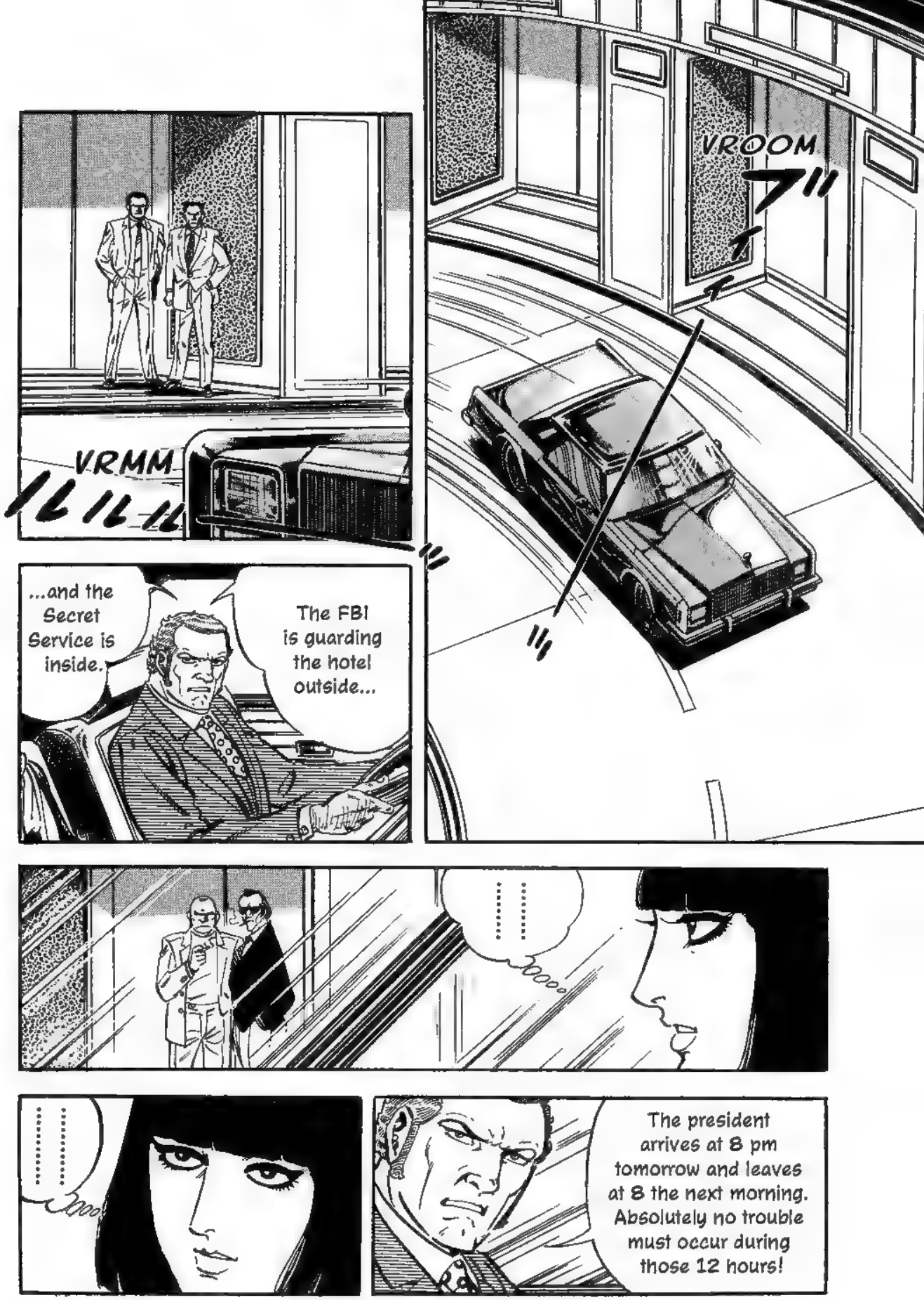

You can brief me in the car.
...a *woman*?
The head office informed me that they would send their top detective, but...




Well, hopefully we won't need you, Miss...
Doll.

Doll...?

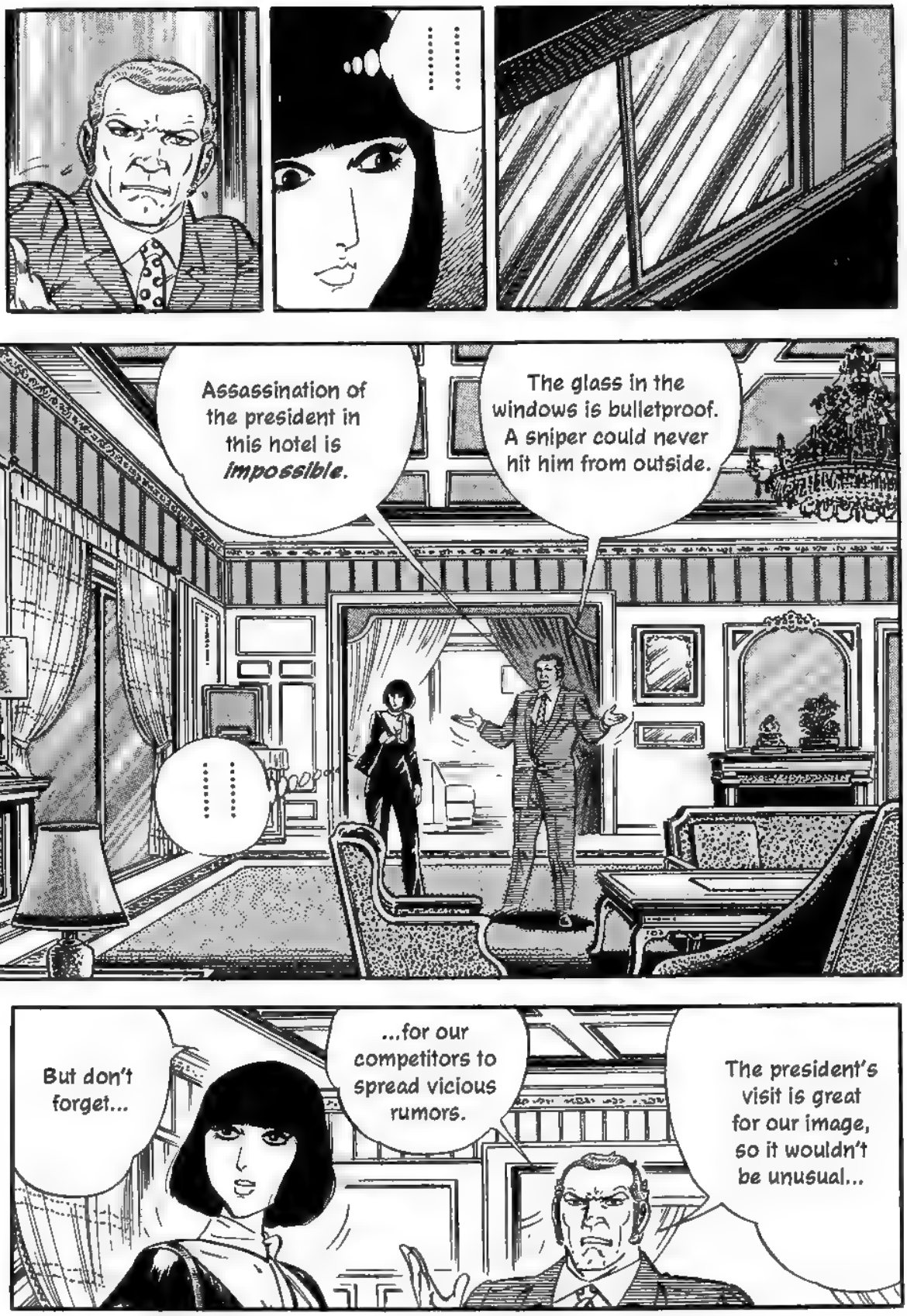
Call me *Doll*.


VRMM
VROOM
...and the Secret Service is inside.
The FBI is guarding the hotel outside...
.....
.....
The president arrives at 8 pm tomorrow and leaves at 8 the next morning. Absolutely no trouble must occur during those 12 hours!

.....
The president's vehicle will go directly to parking on the thirtieth floor.

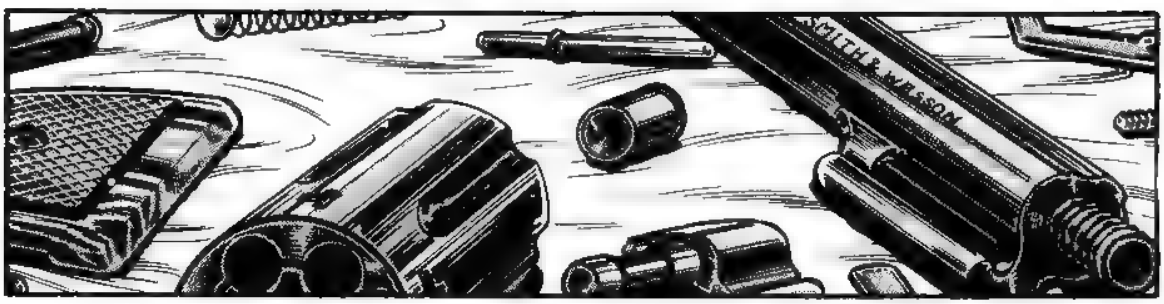
WHOOSH

We're searching all incoming luggage, and the FBI has performed background checks on all hotel guests.
This elevator connects directly to the Imperia Room on the sixtieth floor.
We're not worried about a shooter.


.....
Assassination of the president in this hotel is *impossible*.
The glass in the windows is bulletproof. A sniper could never hit him from outside.
.....
But don't forget...
...for our competitors to spread vicious rumors.
The president's visit is great for our image, so it wouldn't be unusual...

.....

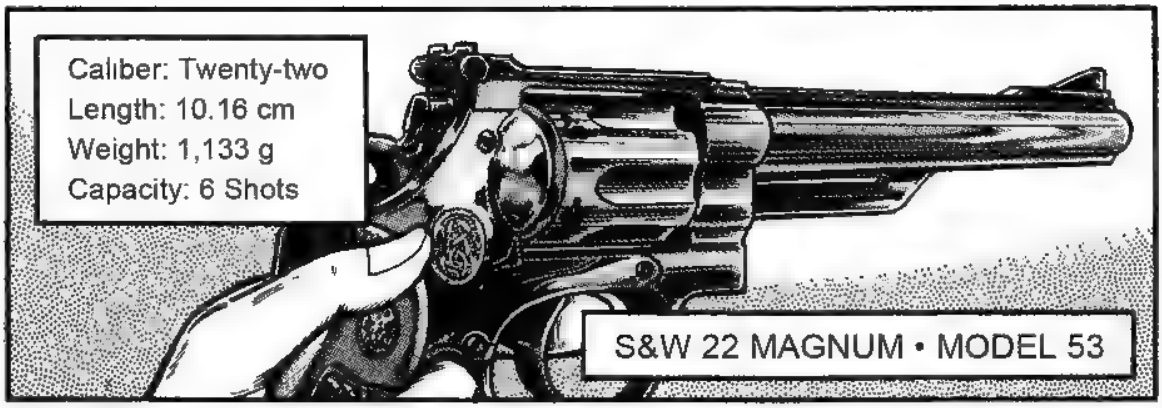
...would destroy the entire chain.
...that an assassination...

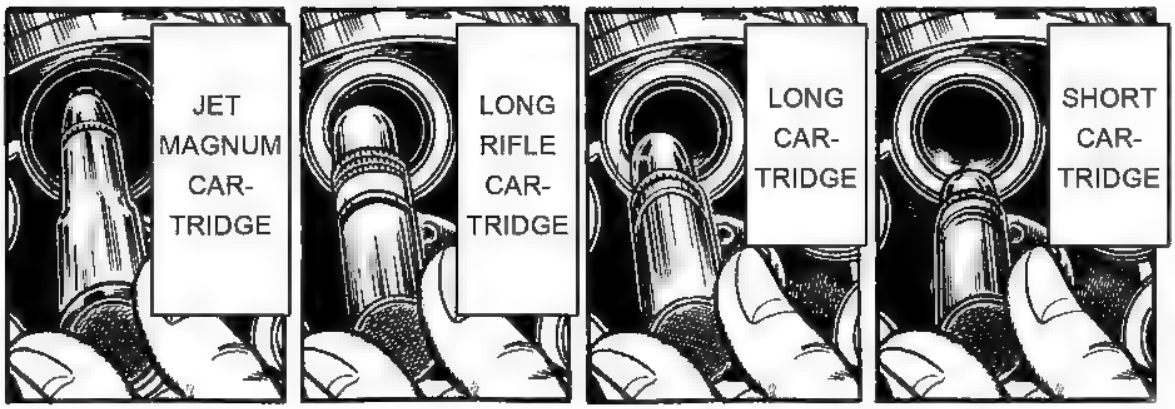

SMITH & WESSON

SKWIK
SK..IK

KLIK KCHIK

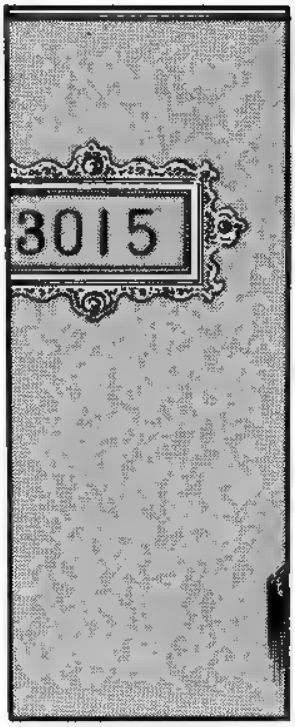
SKRK
SKRK


Caliber: Twenty-two
Length: 10.16 cm
Weight: 1,133 g
Capacity: 6 Shots
S&W 22 MAGNUM • MODEL 53


JET MAGNUM CAR-TRIDGE
LONG RIFLE CAR-TRIDGE
LONG CAR-TRIDGE
SHORT CAR-TRIDGE

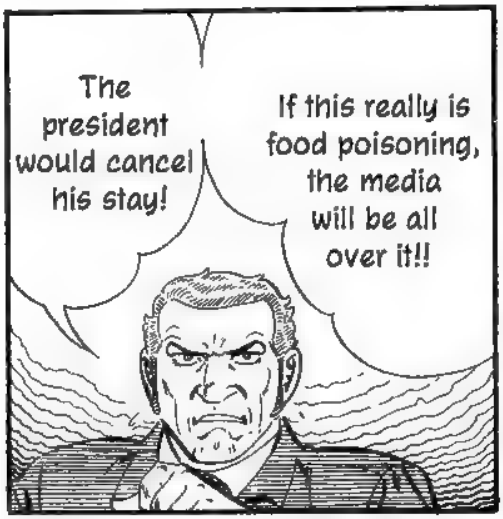
RRRRR
スク〃
SHUP
KSHIK〃ーキ〃

Nnng...

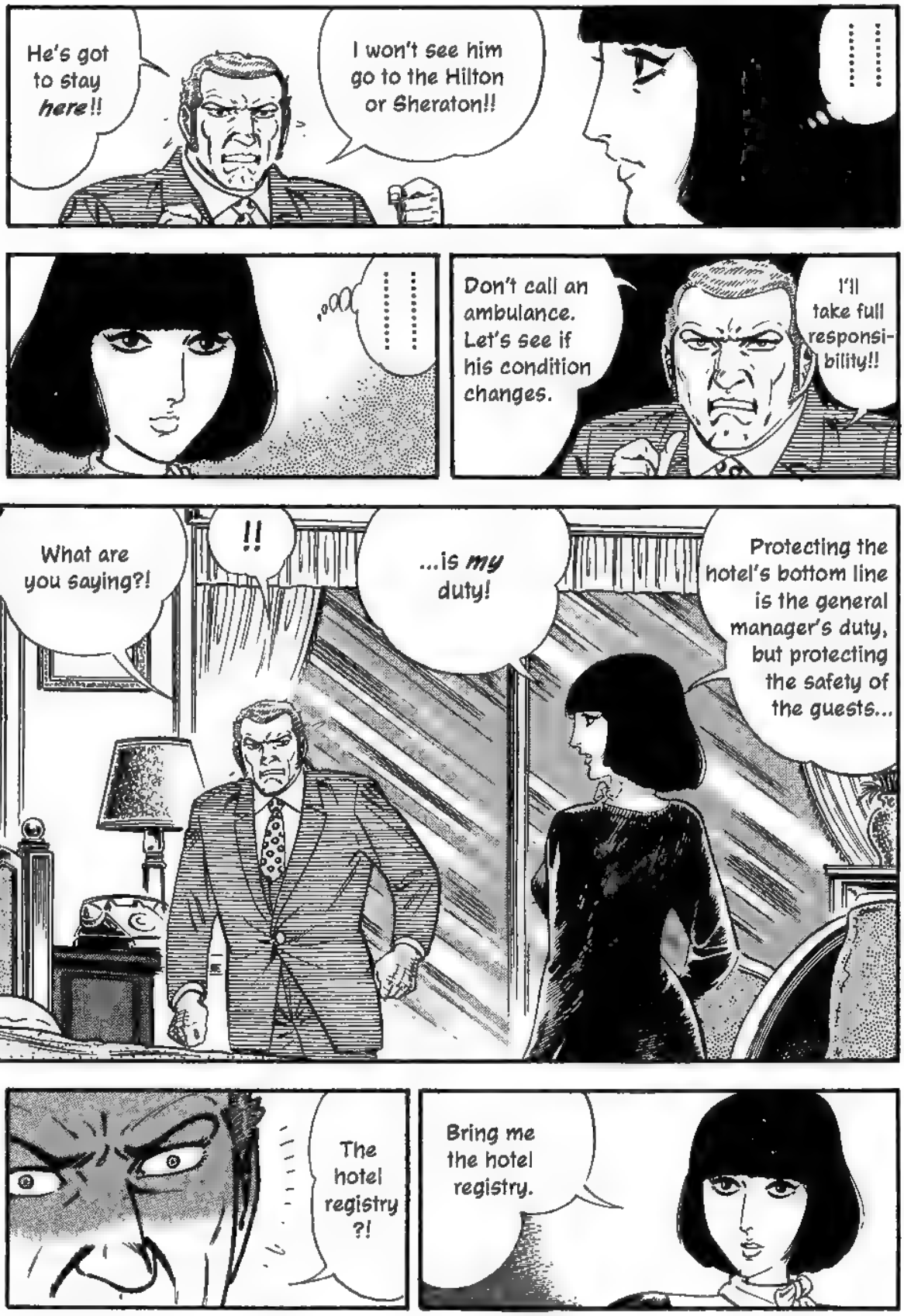

3015

His symptoms suggest food poisoning.

??
?


The president would cancel his stay!
If this really is food poisoning, the media will be all over it!!

Y-Yes, ma'am!
Call an ambulance.
Wait!!


He's got to stay *here*!!
I won't see him go to the Hilton or Sheraton!!
.....
.....
Don't call an ambulance. Let's see if his condition changes.
I'll take full responsibility!!
What are you saying?!
!!
...is *my* duty!
Protecting the hotel's bottom line is the general manager's duty, but protecting the safety of the guests...
The hotel registry ?!
Bring me the hotel registry.

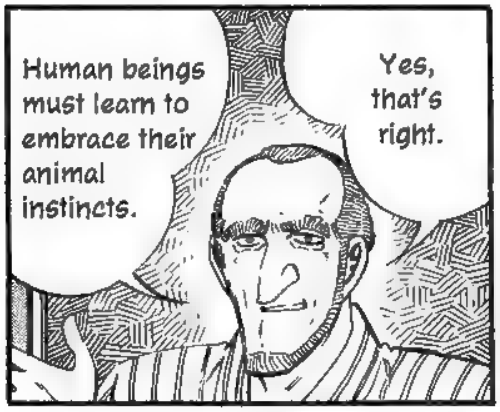
6254

NOK
NOK

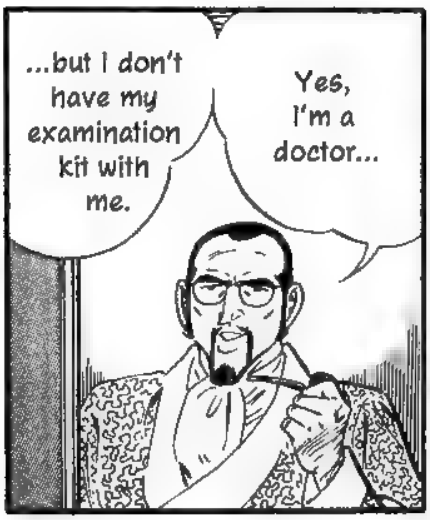
A guest is ill. I'd like you to examine him.
I apologize.
What do you want at this hour...?!

Cavity?!
Is it a cavity that's hurting him?
You do know I'm a *dentist*, don't you?
.....
A *sex counselor* ?!
5131

.....

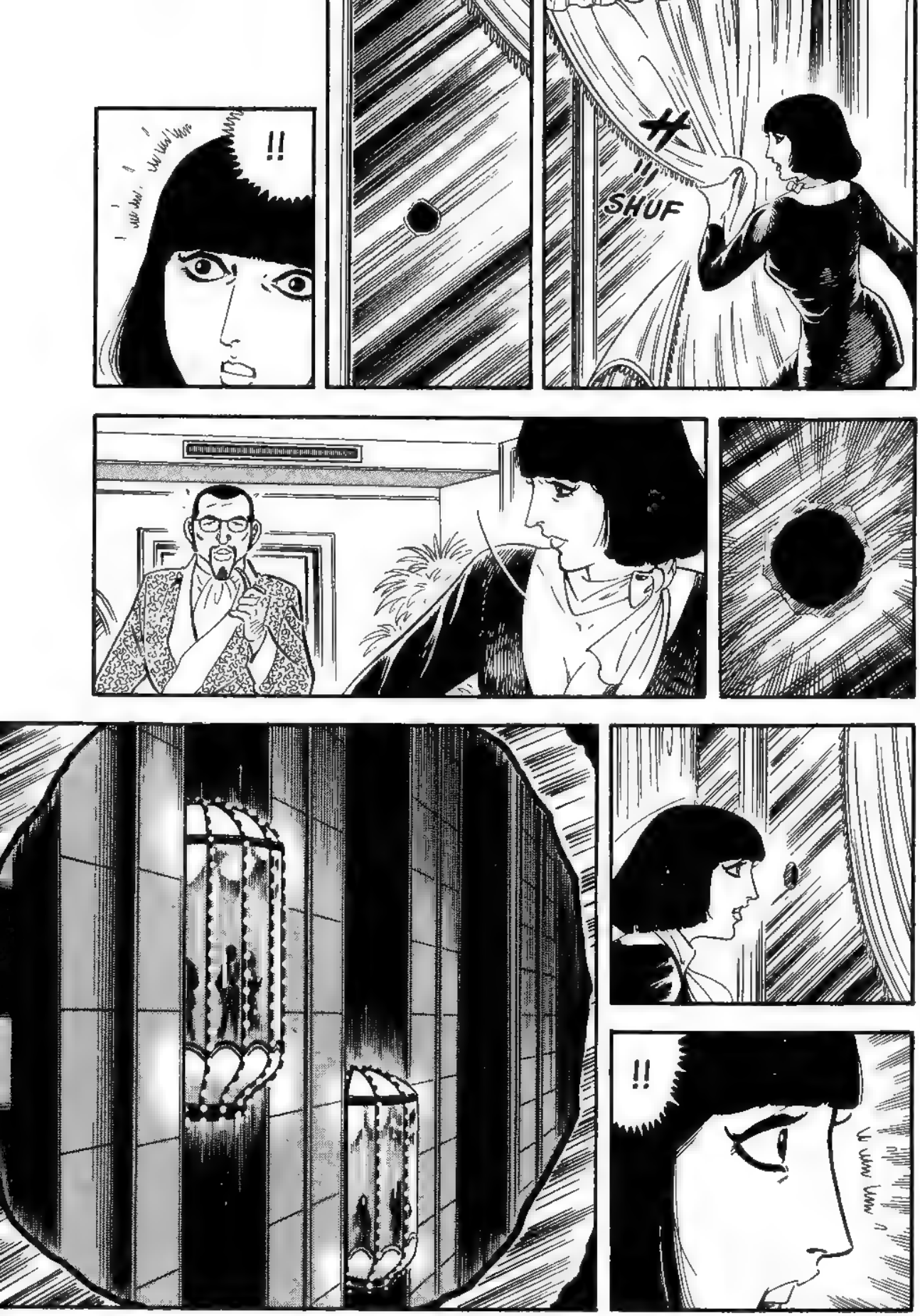

Human beings must learn to embrace their animal instincts.
Yes, that's right.

Excuse me, I think I have the wrong room...
Care to join us?
Primitive sex is *amazing*.

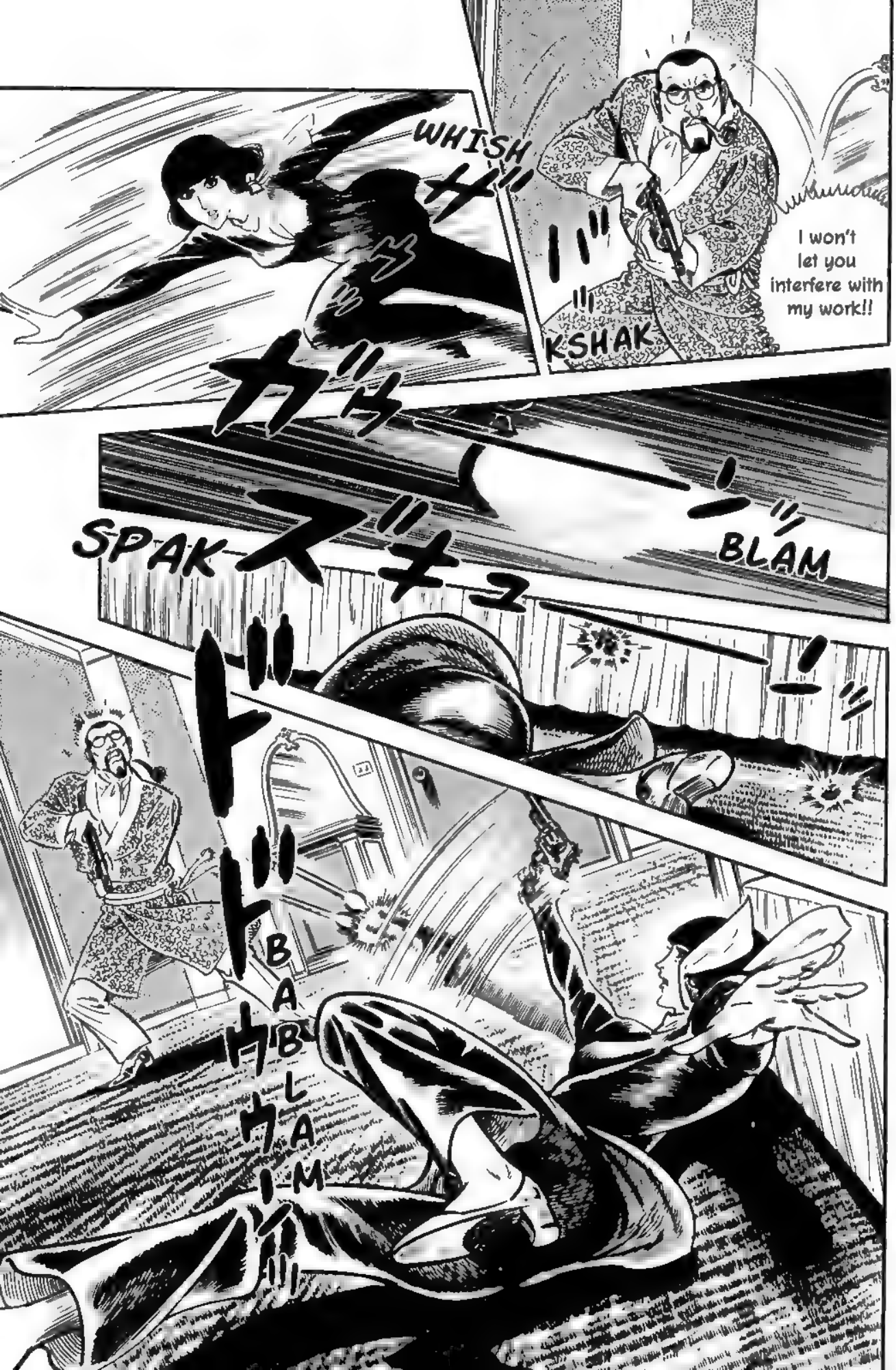

...but I don't have my examination kit with me.
Yes, I'm a doctor...

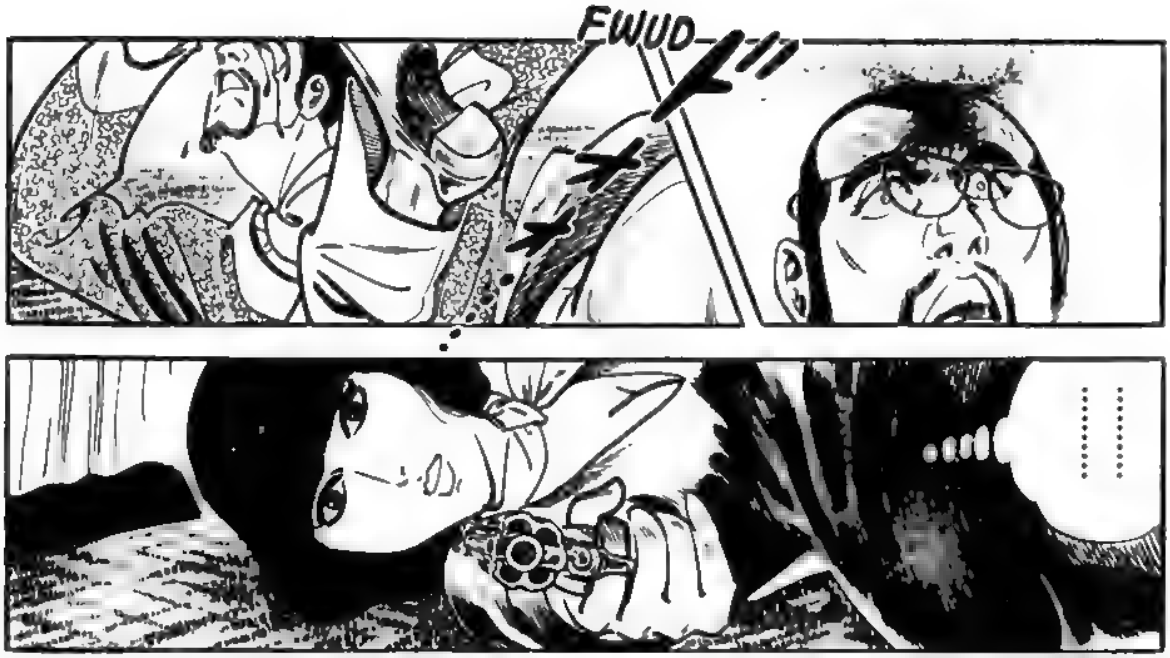
Please!
But you're the last one...
Could you please ask someone else?
TUNK
I refuse!
...and came here to rest!
I dragged myself away from work...
SHUV
!!
I'm going to need a *better* reason why you can't see the patient.
Wh-What are you doing?!

.....
Y-You can't harass a hotel guest like this!!
?!
...one more time.
Blow smoke ...
??
Huh ?!
.....
Wh-What says I *have* to examine him?!
Now get out of my room!!


!!
SHUF
!!

!!
!!
THUMP
Keh!
Nosy bitch!
That's why you
can't examine
the patient!
You killed
the real
Dr. Conrad!


WHISH
KSHAK
I won't let you interfere with my work!!
SPAK
BLAM
BABLAM


FWUD

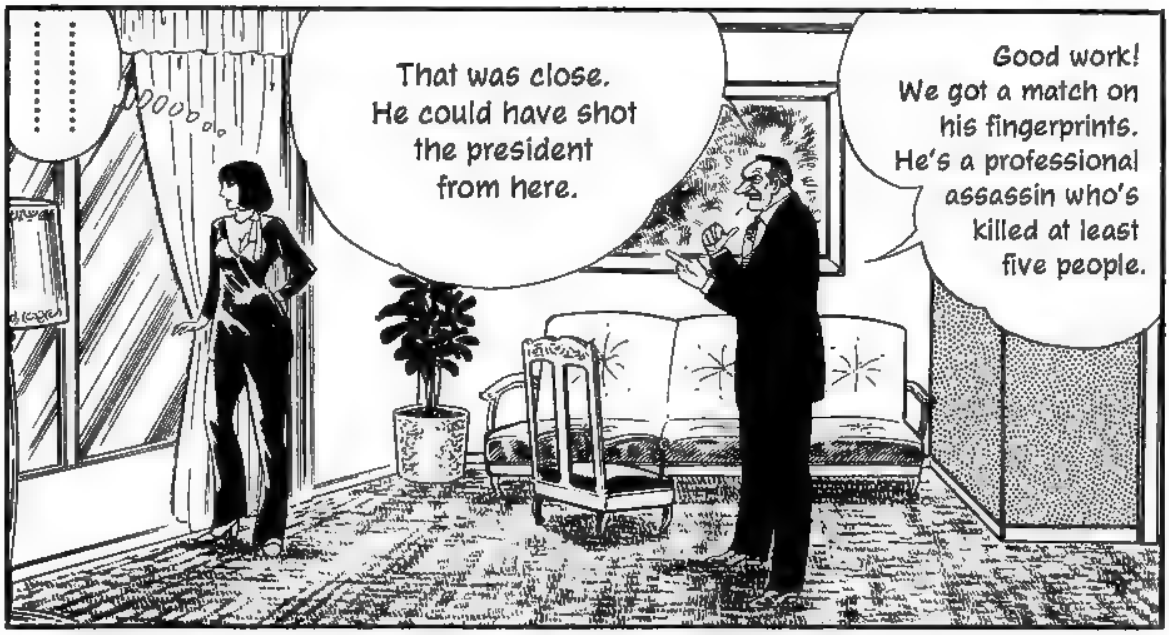
Where am I...?

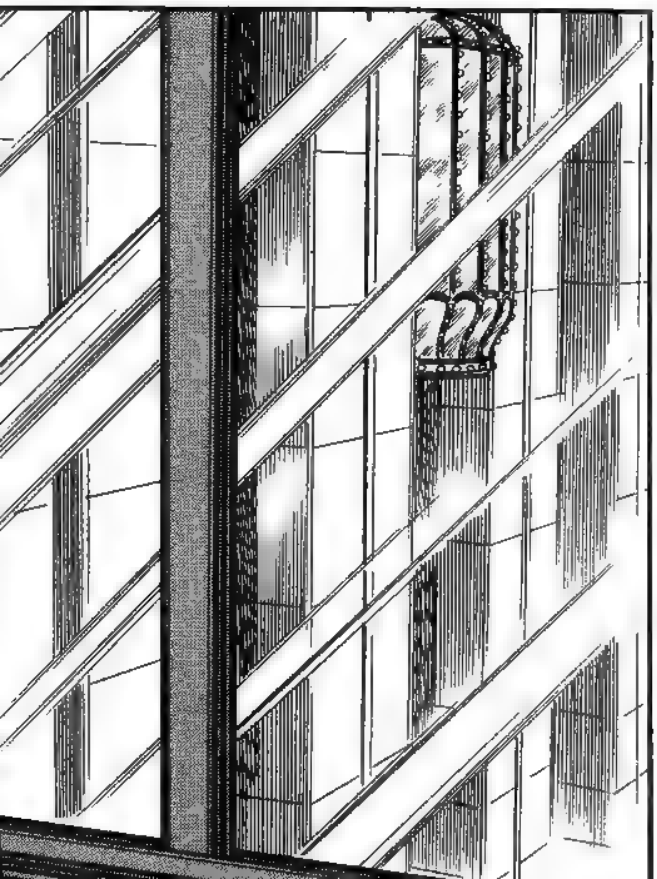
Someone else booked your room, so...
He's awake.

The hotel will cover the cost.
You saved the hotel, so stay as long as you like.
??
We'll explain later. Now, you just rest.
...but you mustn't overdo it. Doctor's orders.
Your fever has subsided...
Is it already that late?
I had a daughter...
?
?

If she's still alive...
...then she's about your age now.
She was my only family. She left and never came back.
I don't know if she's alive or dead.
I'm sure she's alive and well somewhere.
Thank you. You're such a kind young woman.

3621

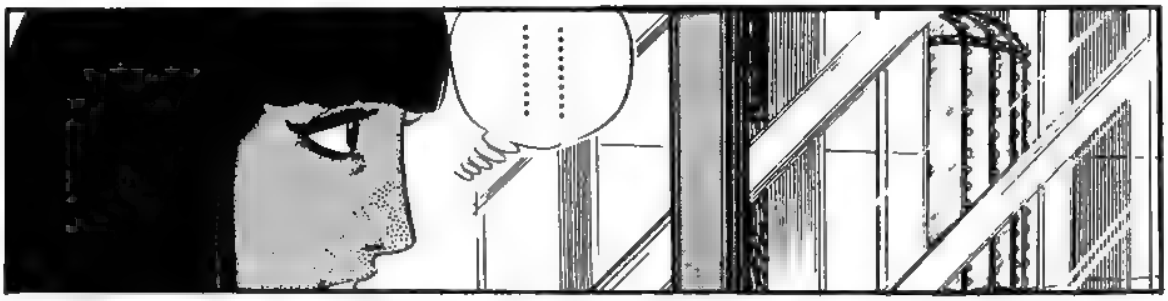

That was close. He could have shot the president from here.
Good work! We got a match on his fingerprints. He's a professional assassin who's killed at least five people.

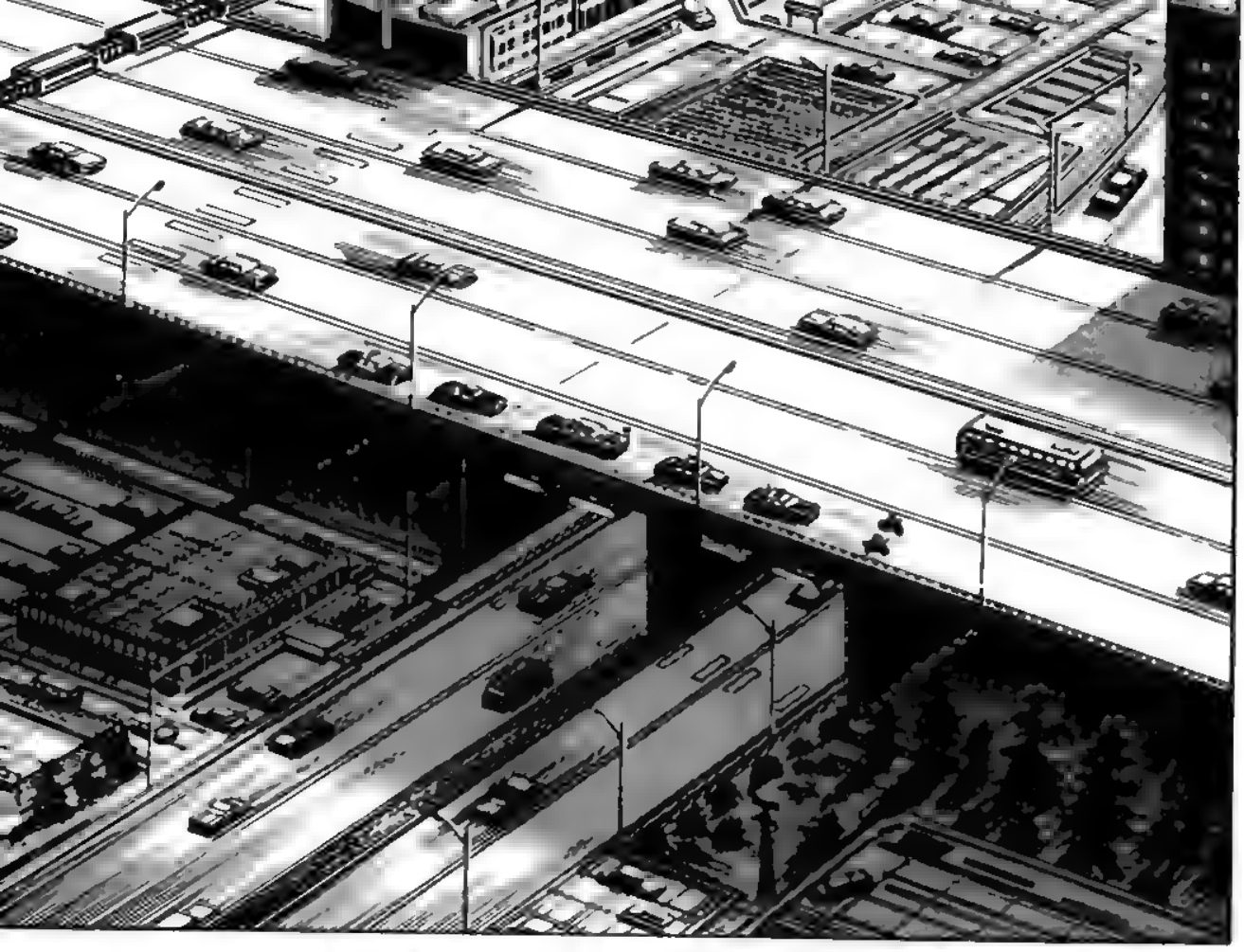


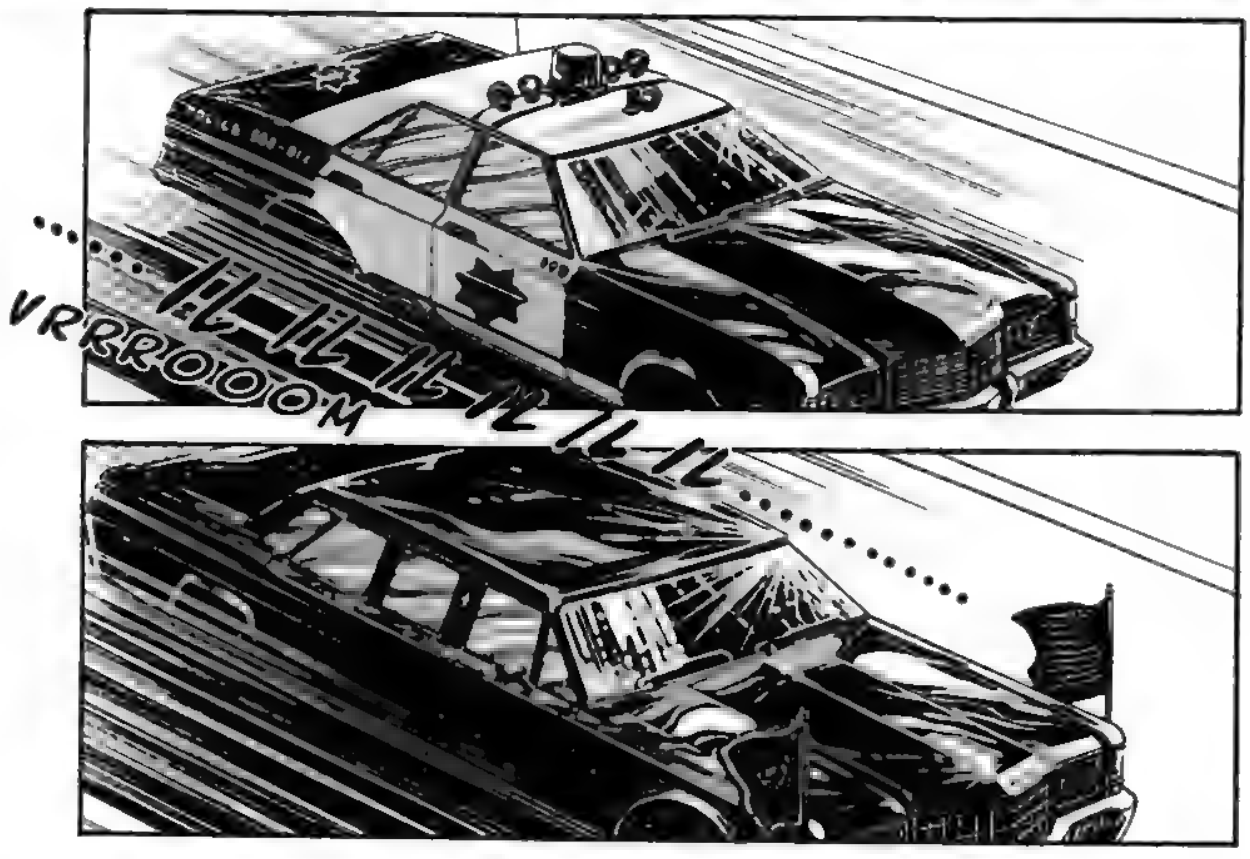
?

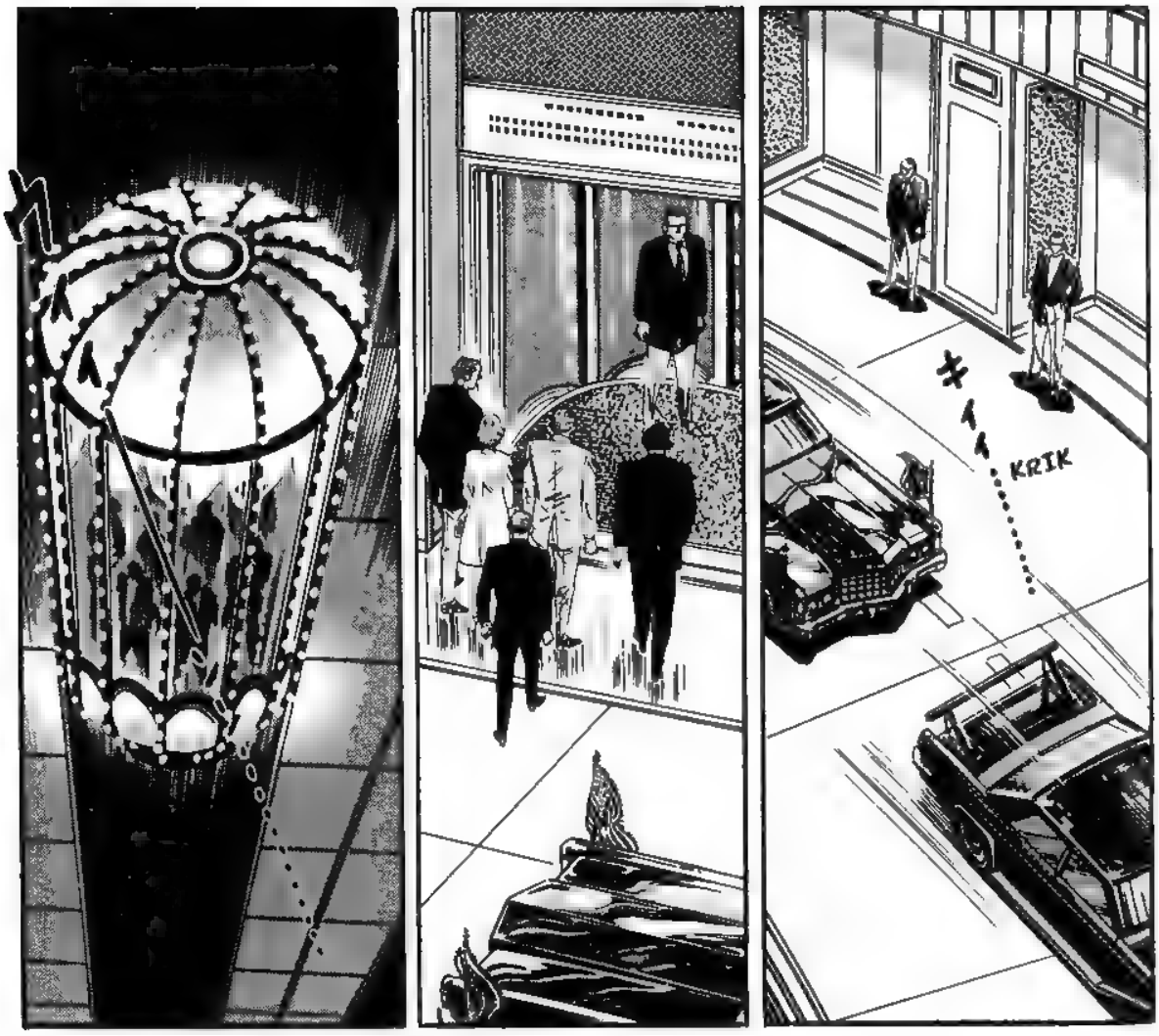
I don't know how he smuggled in the rifle, but it's all over now.

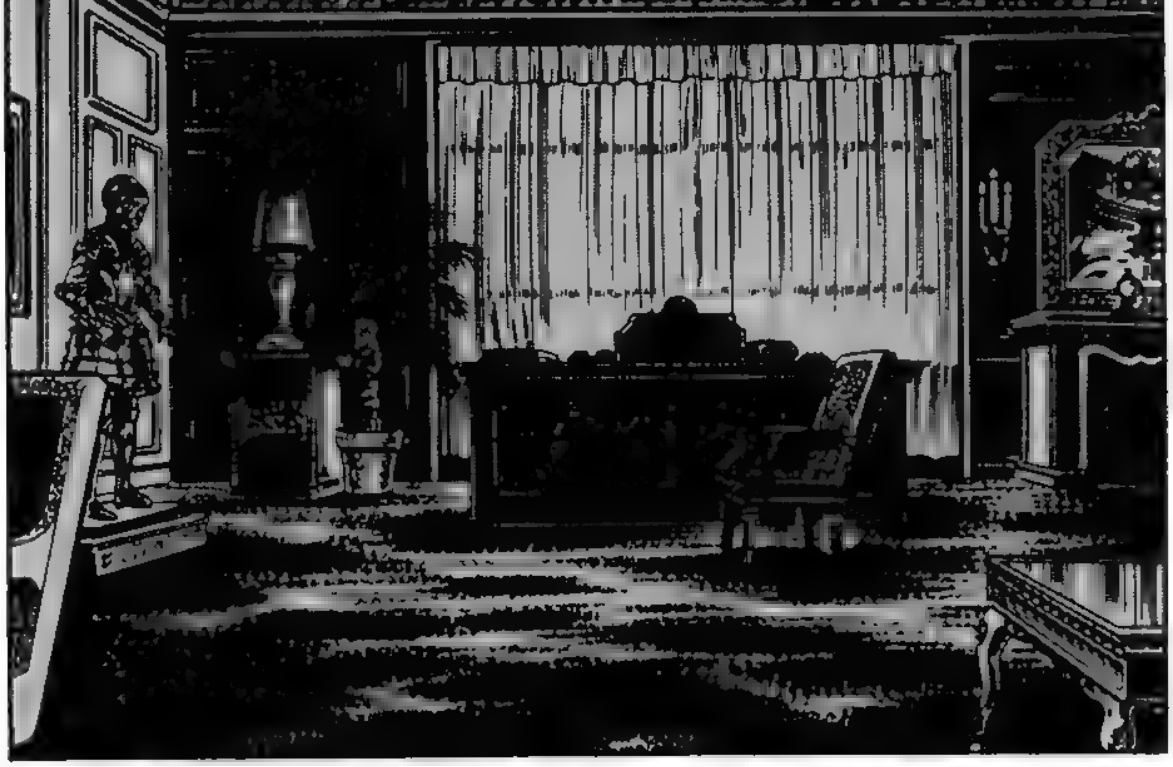
The president will arrive soon. Let's hope nothing else happens.
Well, we did everything we could.
No, it's too soon to be sure.

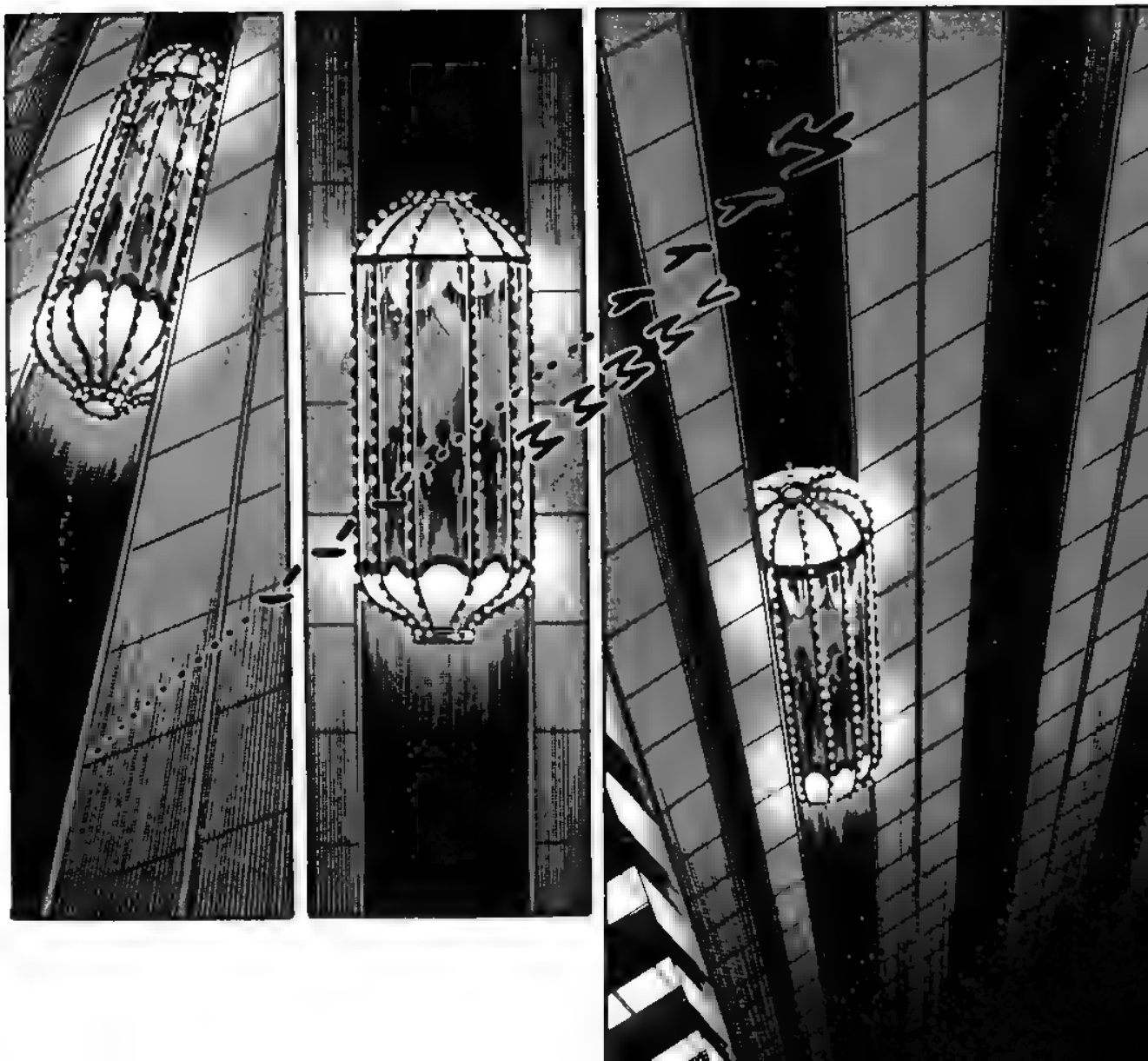

.....




VRRROOOM

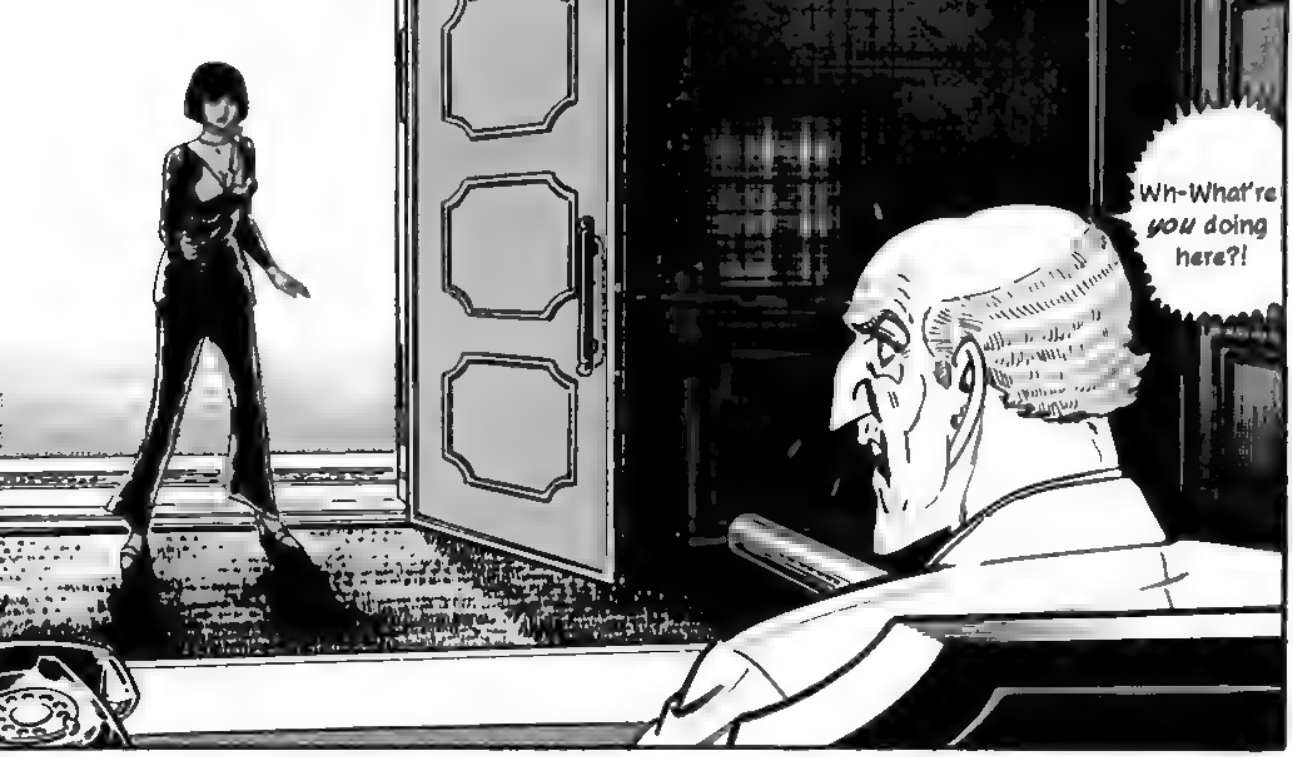

KRIK

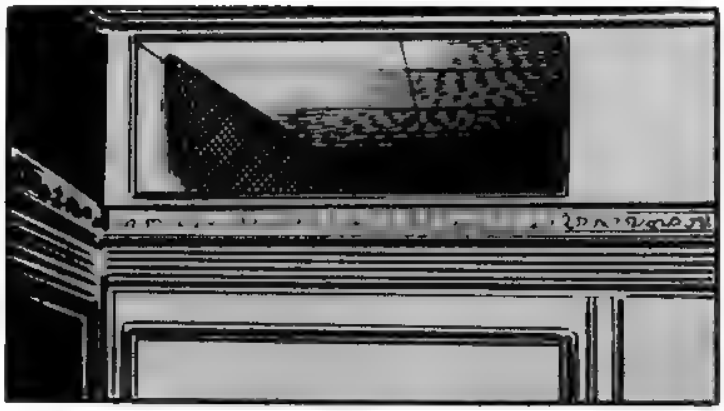




VEEN
FLIK
He's here

TMP
ピ
ッ
?!
BAM
アアーン!!!


Wh-What're *you* doing here?!

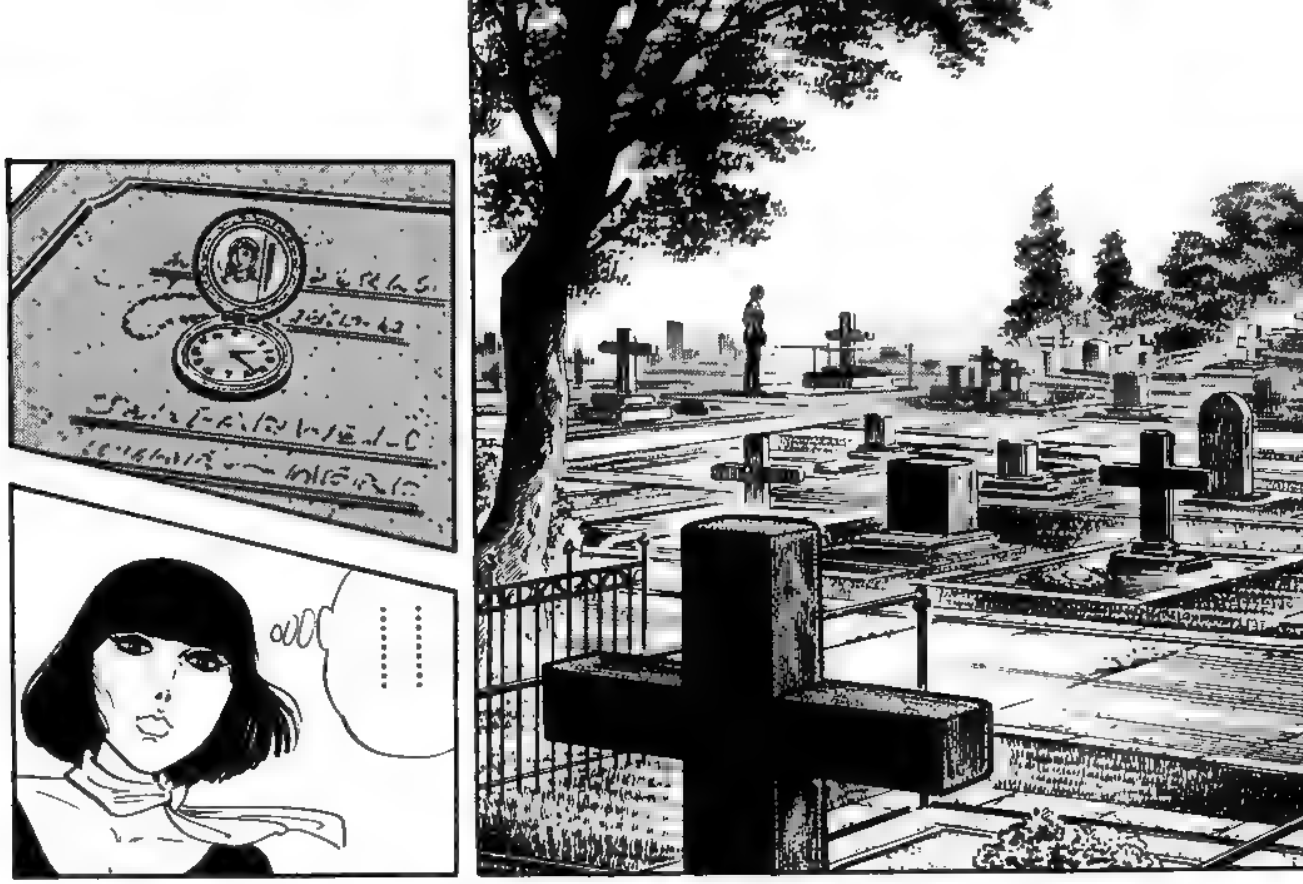


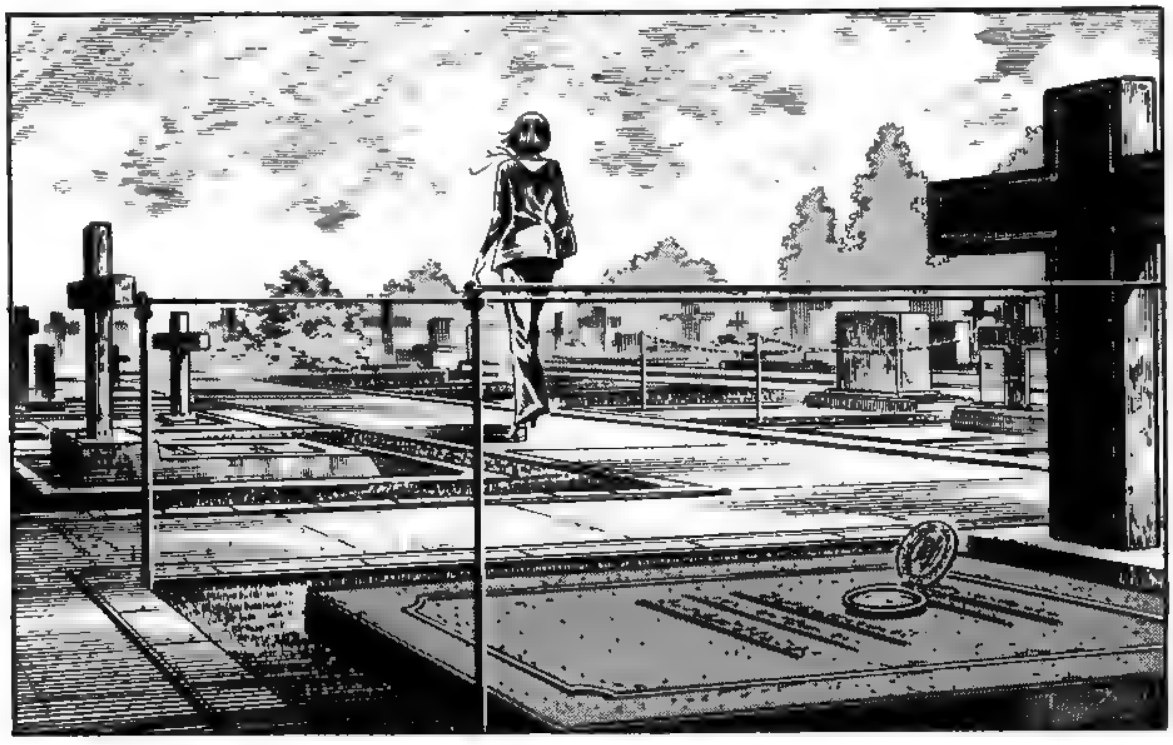
Why hasn't the president arrived yet?!
Wh-What's going on?!
I knew it. You're the real assassin.

!!
I moved that watch forward.
How did you know he was a decoy?
...and have me discover the decoy assassin.
You planned it all, faking a fever so you could stay another night...
...could ever hit someone in that elevator.
The winds at this height are so strong that no rifle, no matter how accurate...
Draft ?!
A draft.
But your pistol is only a .22 caliber. You're outgunned.
Heh heh heh. Well done. I'm impressed.
Which makes *this* the only place in the hotel to kill the president.

BLAM
WHISH
WHOOSH
FATUMP
What's going on here?!
Agh!!

BLAM
STAGGER
PATINK
THUD
J-Jet Magnum?!
N... No...!!





PRODUCTION STAFF

Direction: Takao Saito

Layout: Fumiyasu Ishikawa, Takao Saito

Script: Mitsuo Aimono (assistance), Takao Saito

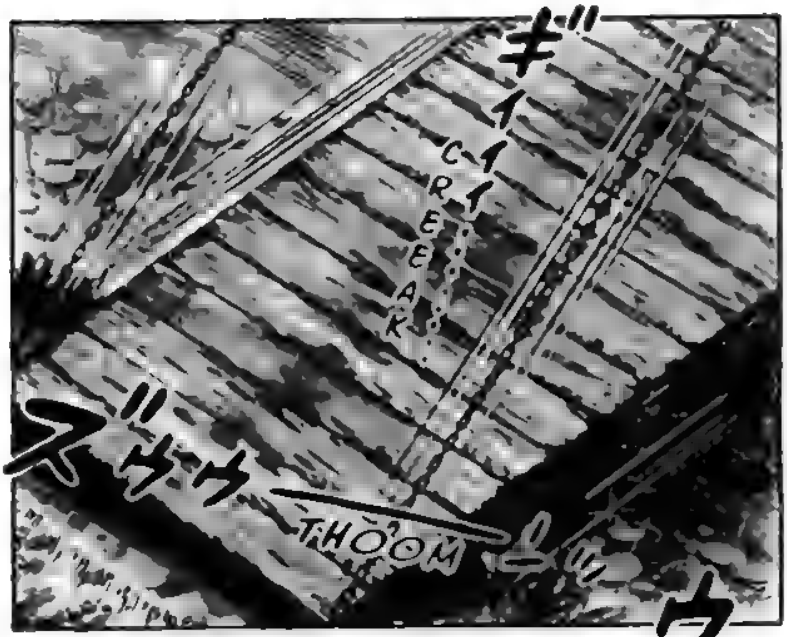
Art: Fumiyasu Ishikawa, Takao Saito

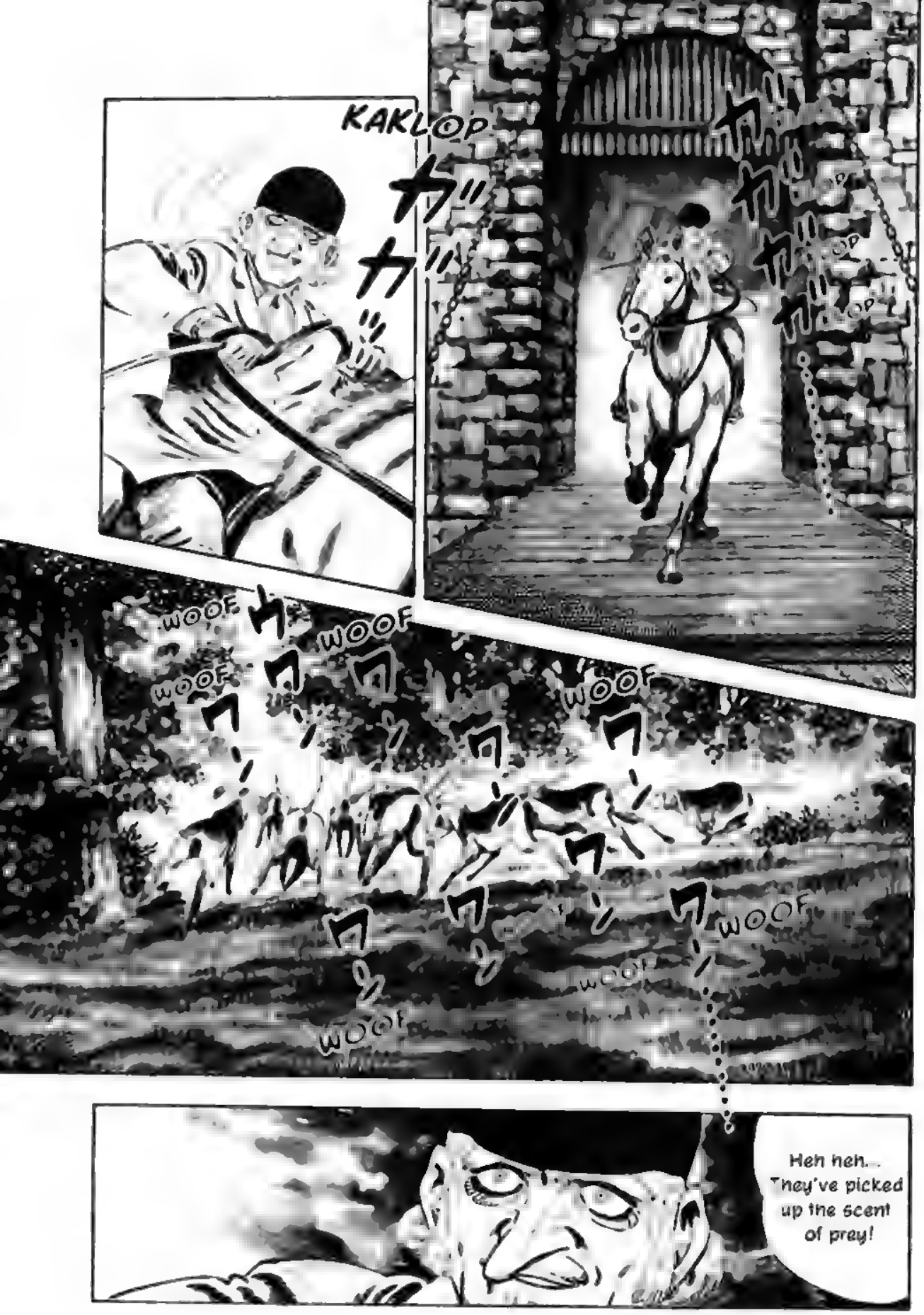
#2 THE OLD CASTLE NEVER DIES

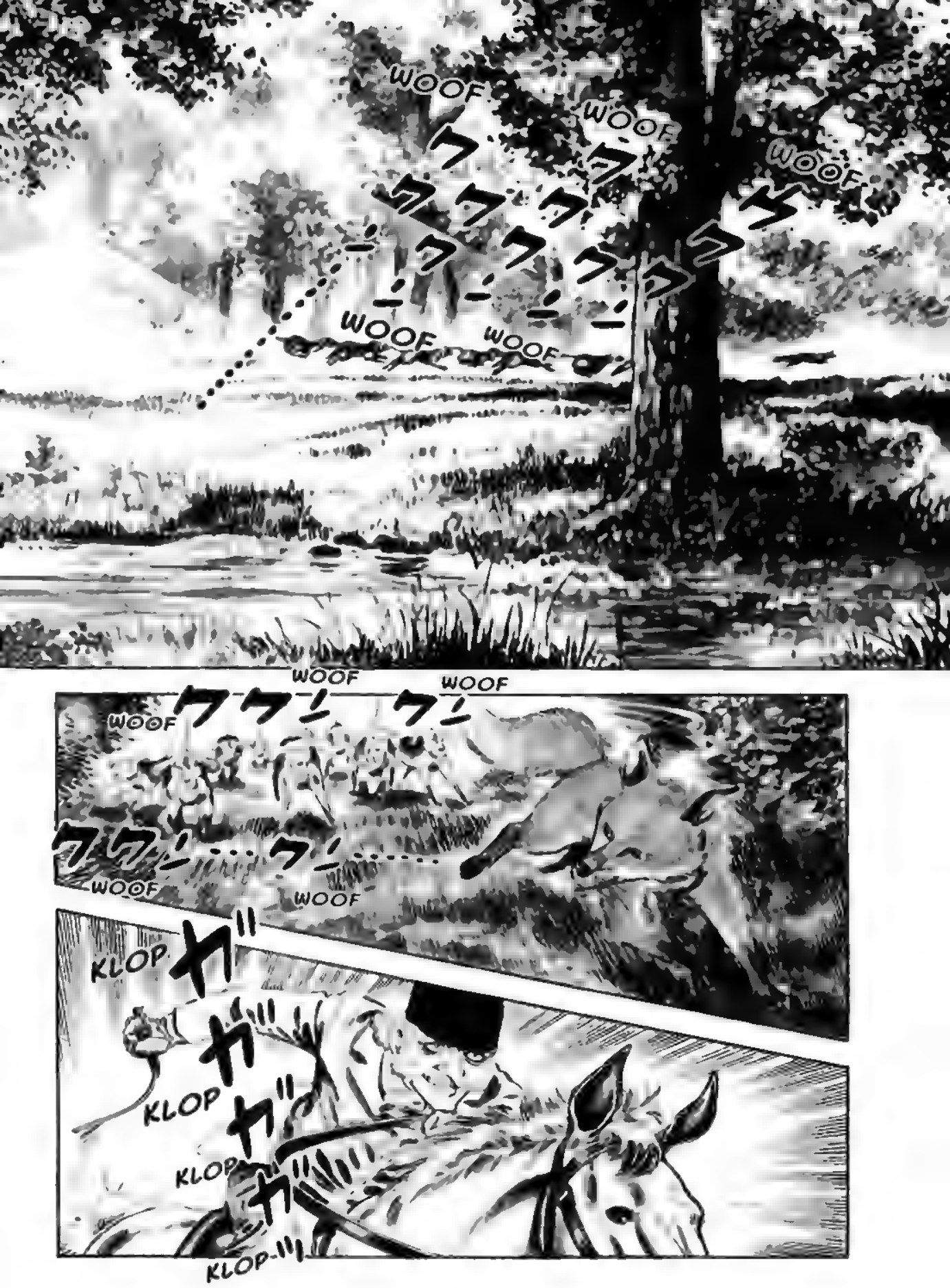
The old castle looms above the beautiful forest and lake, as if glaring down at them. Its imposing majesty is not merely due to having protected its inhabitants from the elements and invaders for over one thousand years. Rather, it is like a giant living creature...

NEAR BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

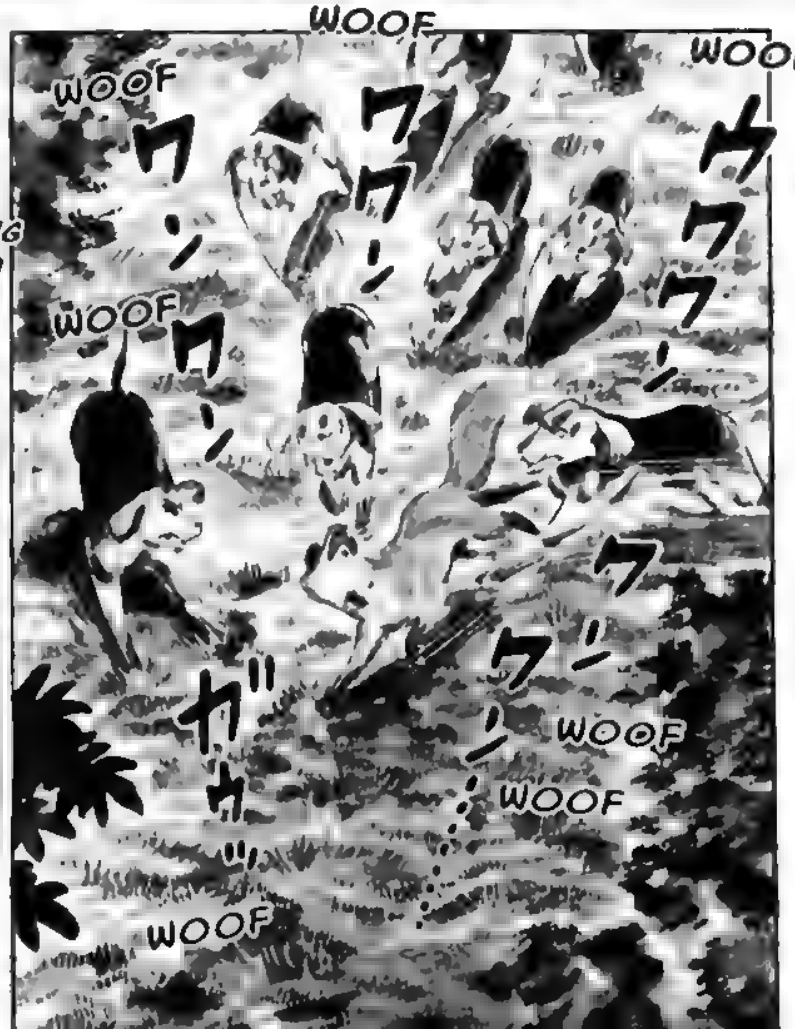
THE OLD CASTLE NEVER DIES




KAKLOP
KAKLOP
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
Heh heh... They've picked up the scent of prey!


WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP

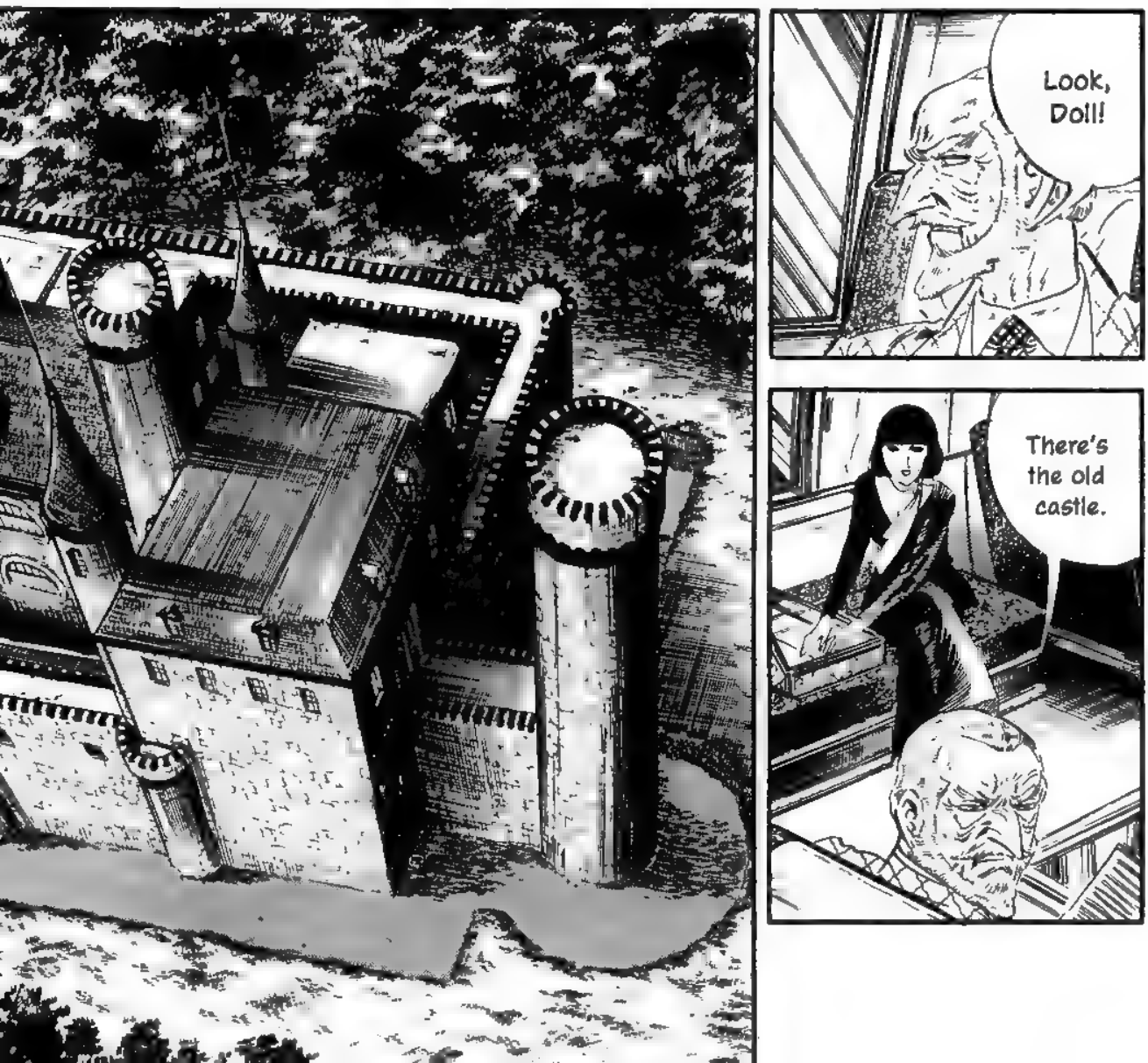
SPROING
GRR
GRRR


WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF

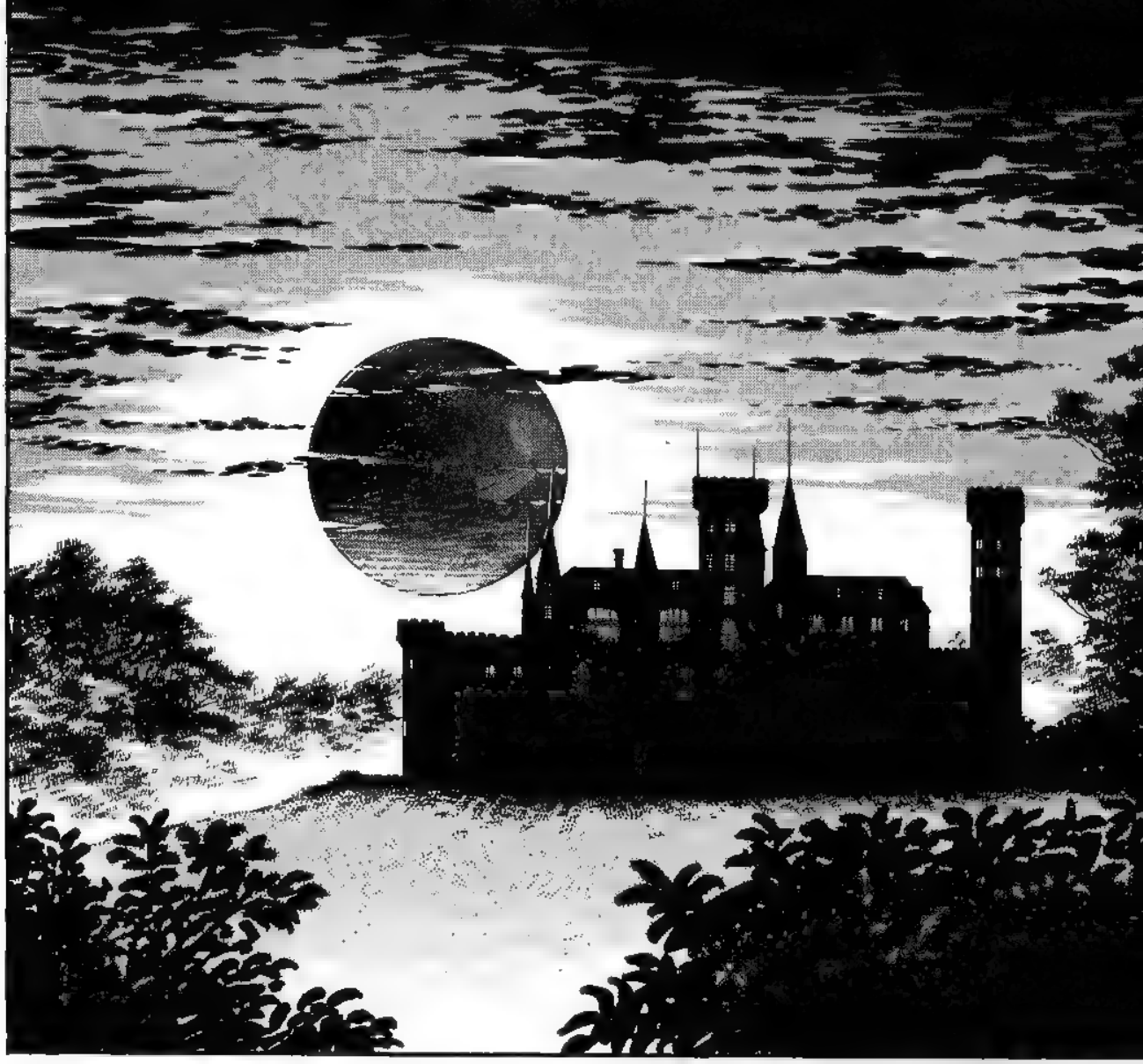
I'll feed you plenty of fox meat!!
Heh heh... Good boys!!
FWIP
TUG
CREEEEEEK
Agh!!
NEIGH

VREEEE
VWOOSH


Look, Doll!
There's the old castle.

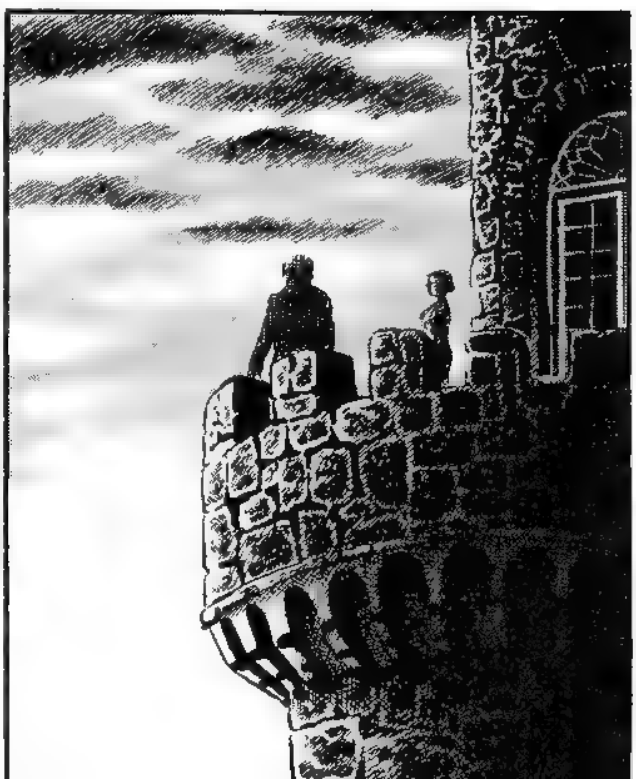
Doll, do hotel detectives always carry around such things?
Yes, but I pray I don't have to use them.
By the way, what do you think about this purchase?

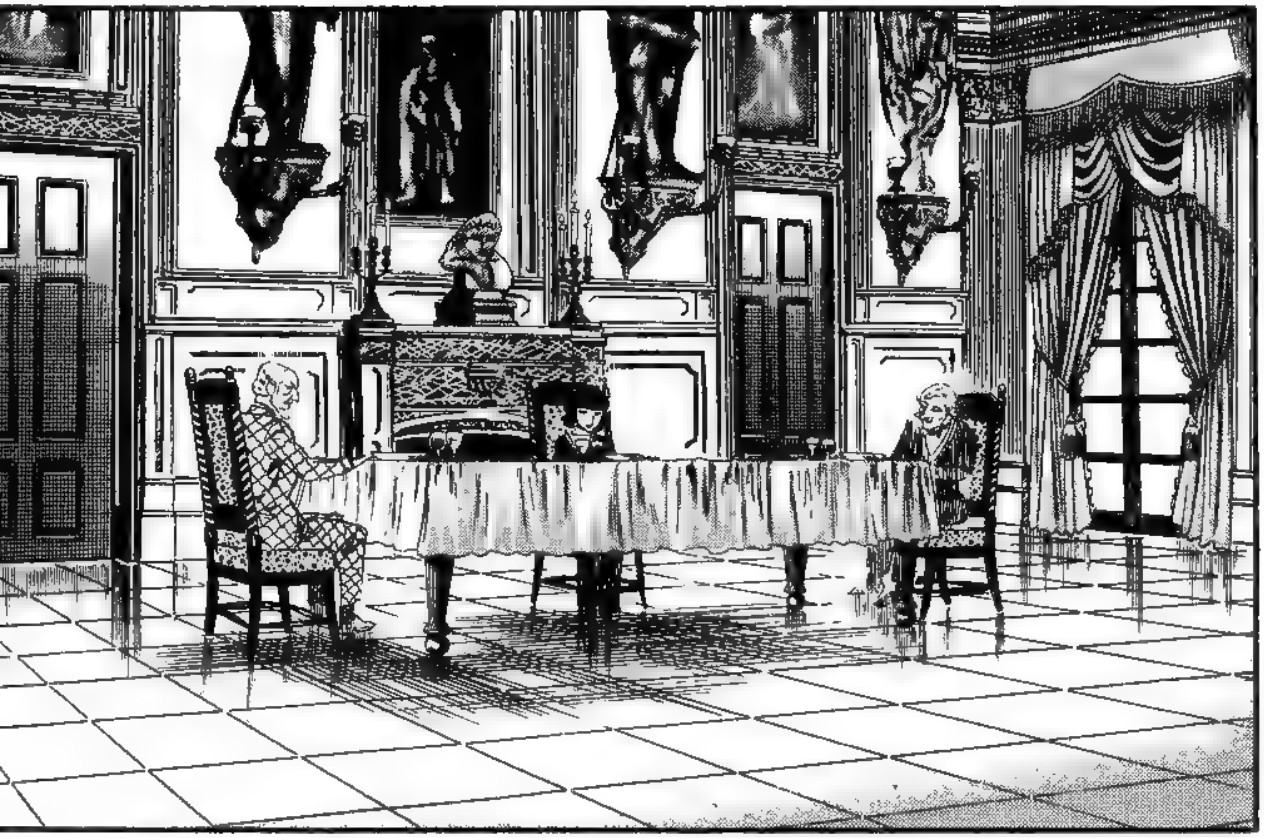
...so I'm going to turn that old castle into Sunrise Hotel's 152nd location!
I can't erect a modern skyscraper out here...
Beautiful forests and lakes! This place's appeal is its natural setting!
Researching this region and popular tourist destinations this past year, I have learned what it is people want the most.
.....
.....
Forget about work this time, Doll. Just relax.
Hmm...
I think that is the right decision, Chairman.
ゴォォォ
VWOOSH



Just like I thought. A beautiful view.

.....





Let us take care of that tomorrow.
Legalities will spoil dinner.
Now, if you would sign this contract, Baron...
.....
.....
TLING
TLING

I'm sorry to hear that.
It got away?

.....

.....

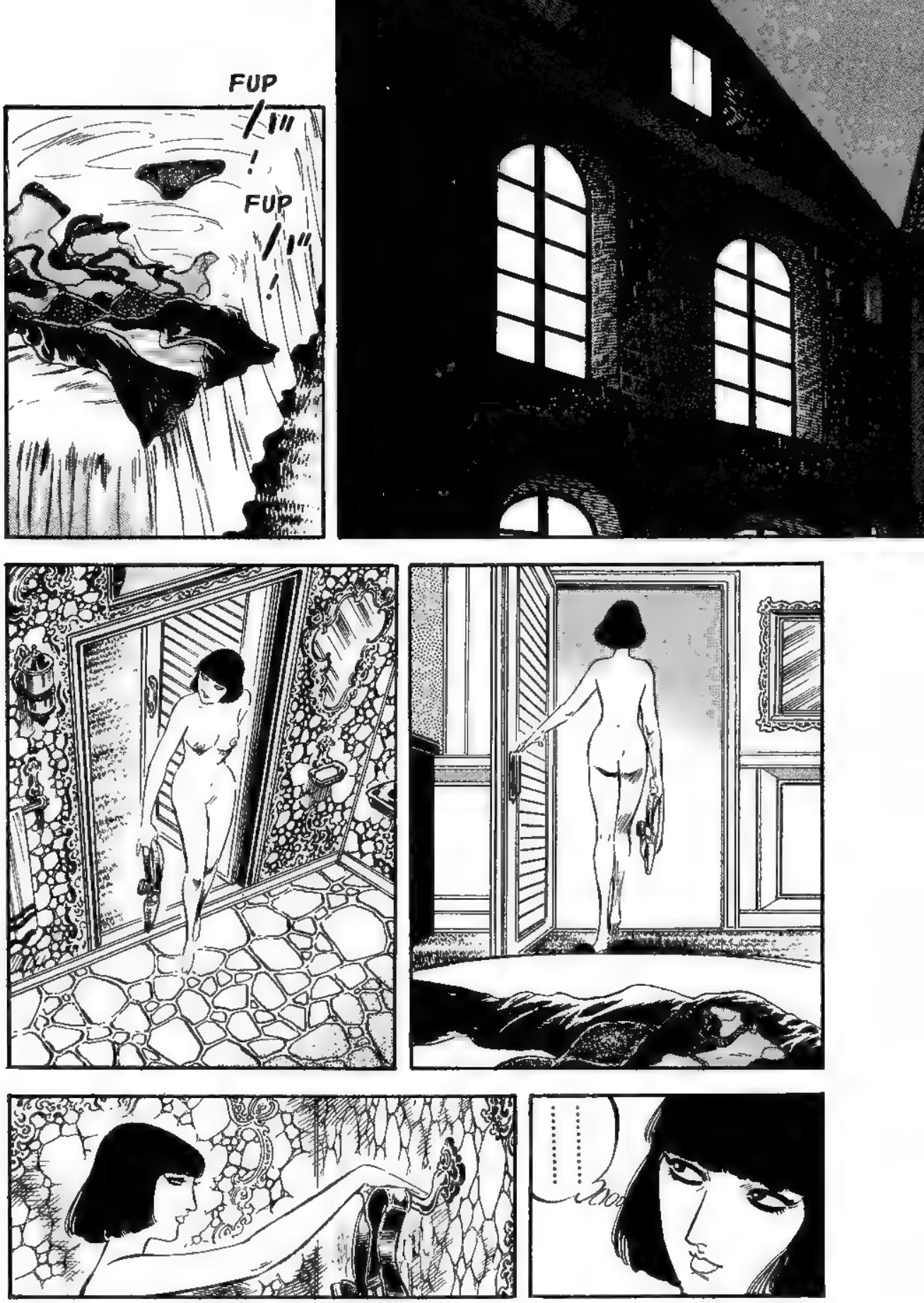
I was going to treat you to fresh fox...
...but someone *intruded* on my hunt.

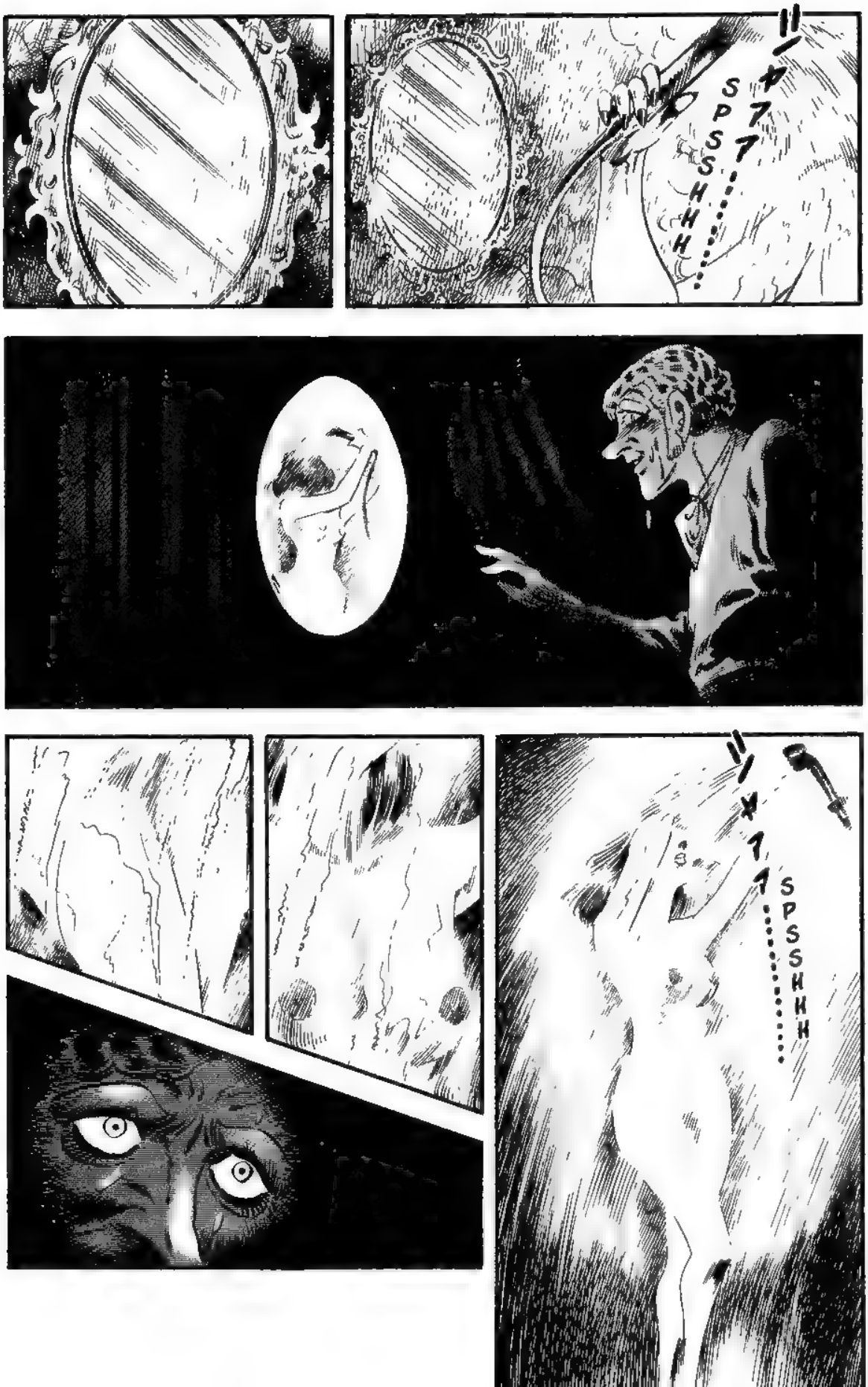
And it never *will*.
...and it hasn't changed a bit!
I was here once about 30 years ago...

...it has never fallen to invaders. Not once!
In over one thousand years of history...
I attempted renovations, but could not defeat the castle. It is too dignified.
You claim that turning this castle into a hotel will *preserve* it.
Of course not!
You don't see *me* as an invader, do you?
.....
.....
...are you an enemy.
I am most grateful, so by no means...
.....

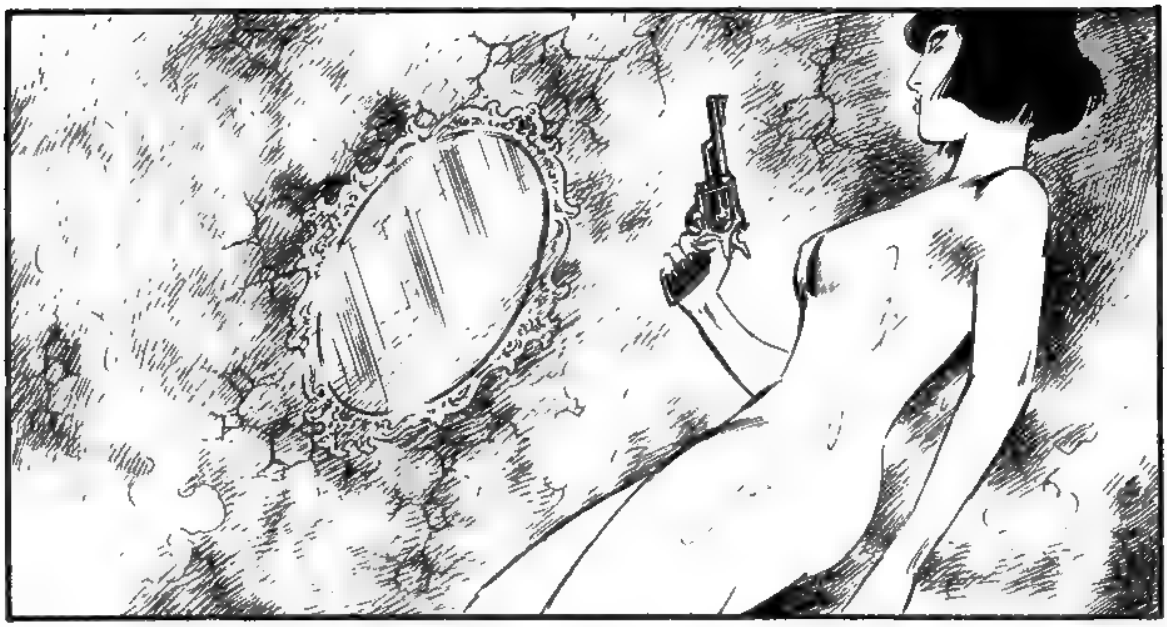
No, the castle protected *you*, Baron.
And my job was to protect it.
Throughout centuries of conflict, this castle has protected the Coldbeck family and its tenants.
In here, you were safe from the disturbances outside its walls. But now there is peace, you've run out of cash.
.....
If you wish for the continued existence of the castle, you must transfer it to me.
Your accounts have run dry.
.....
...and give it new life as a hotel!
I will leave it the way it is...

.....
You take it easy now, you hear?
...good night.
Well then...

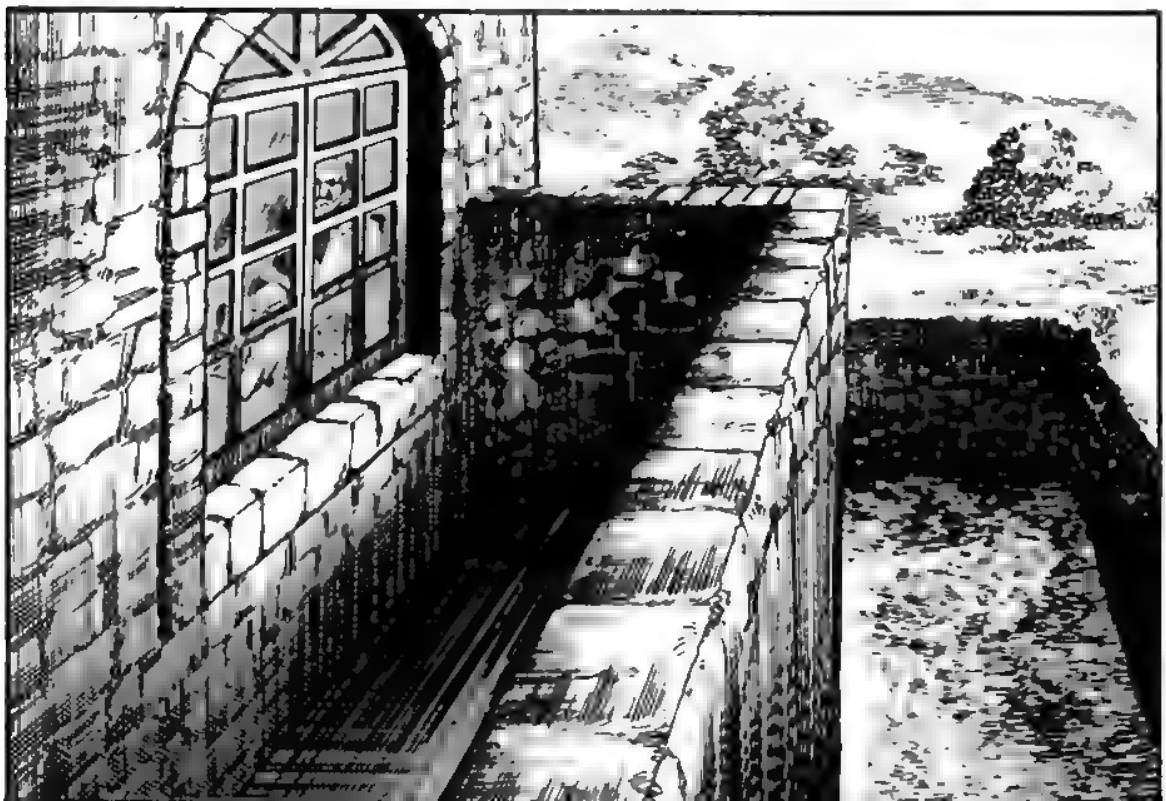

FUP
FUP


SPSSHHH
SPSSHHH

!
SWIP



.....
Baoo..



...is your money.
And here...
That should do it.
Leave the castle to me.
I was looking for you. Where have you been?
Doll...
At an important time like this?!
Oh, I went for a little stroll.

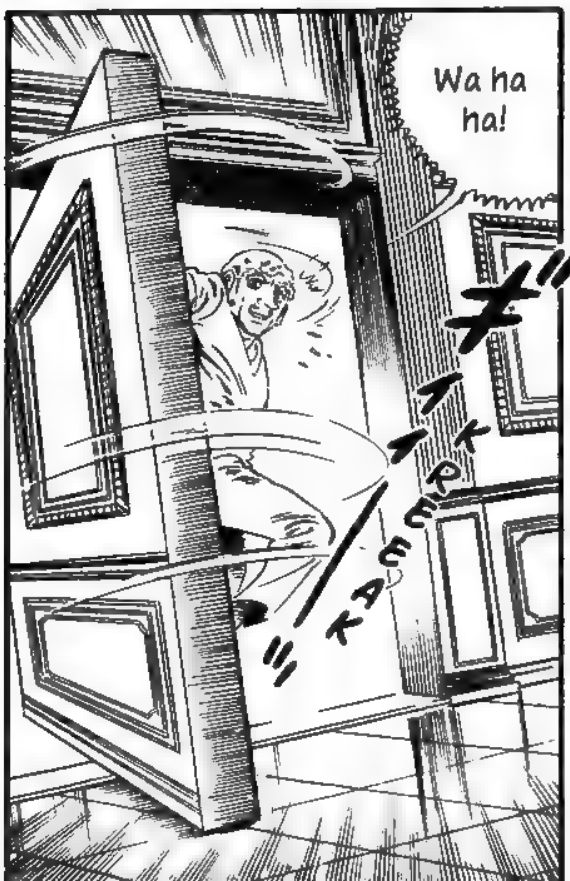
.....
Oh, well. We just concluded the agreement.
.....
I'll turn this old castle into a wonderful hotel!
Just you watch!
Wait, Baron.
I shall be leaving now.
That's a detonator !!
?!
!!
I found *this* during my walk.

...someone intended to use this here in the near future.
?!
.....
But what does it mean, Doll?
It's new. In other words...
...heh heh...
Heh heh heh...
.....
...to destroy this place?!
S-Surely you don't intend...
B... Baron?!
.....
Mwa ha ha ha!

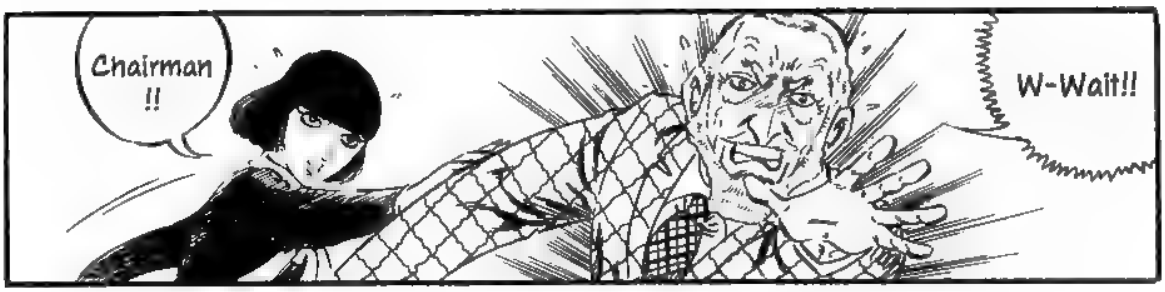
You're the castle's new owner!! Now *die* with it, Mister Powers!!
In five minutes, this place will be blown to bits!!
B-Baron!!
It's in the labyrinth beneath the castle!! You'll never find it in time!!
The castle is *yours* now! So go search for the bomb!!
Baron!!
FWIP

FAWOOSH

!!
Gasoline?!


Wa ha ha!
KAMEMARK

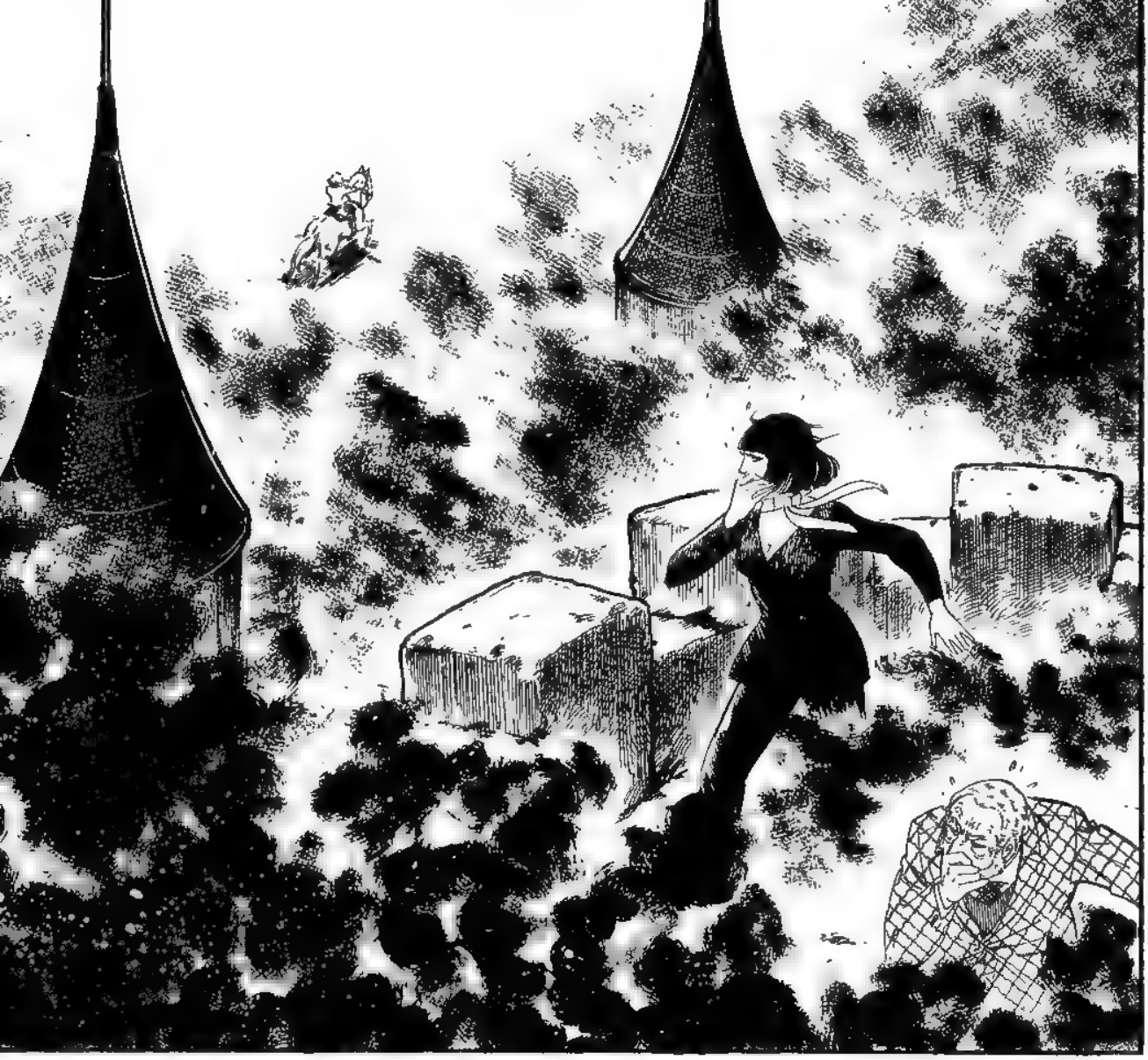
Ha ha...
TUMP


Chairman !!
W-Wait!!

Uh... right!!
Hurry!!

We should flee to a higher place!!
Huh?!

KLOP カッ
KLOP カッ
KLOP カッ
KLOP カッ
ゴォォォ
FWOOOSH

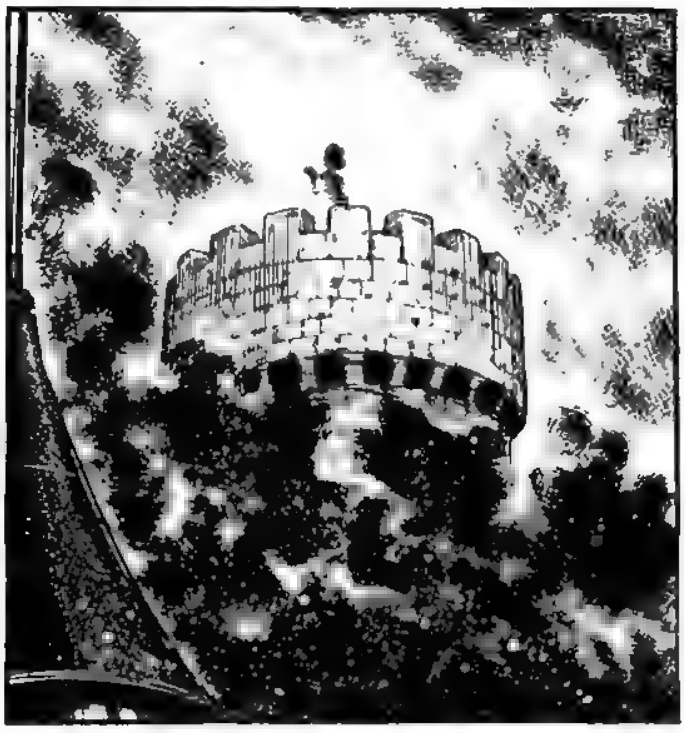


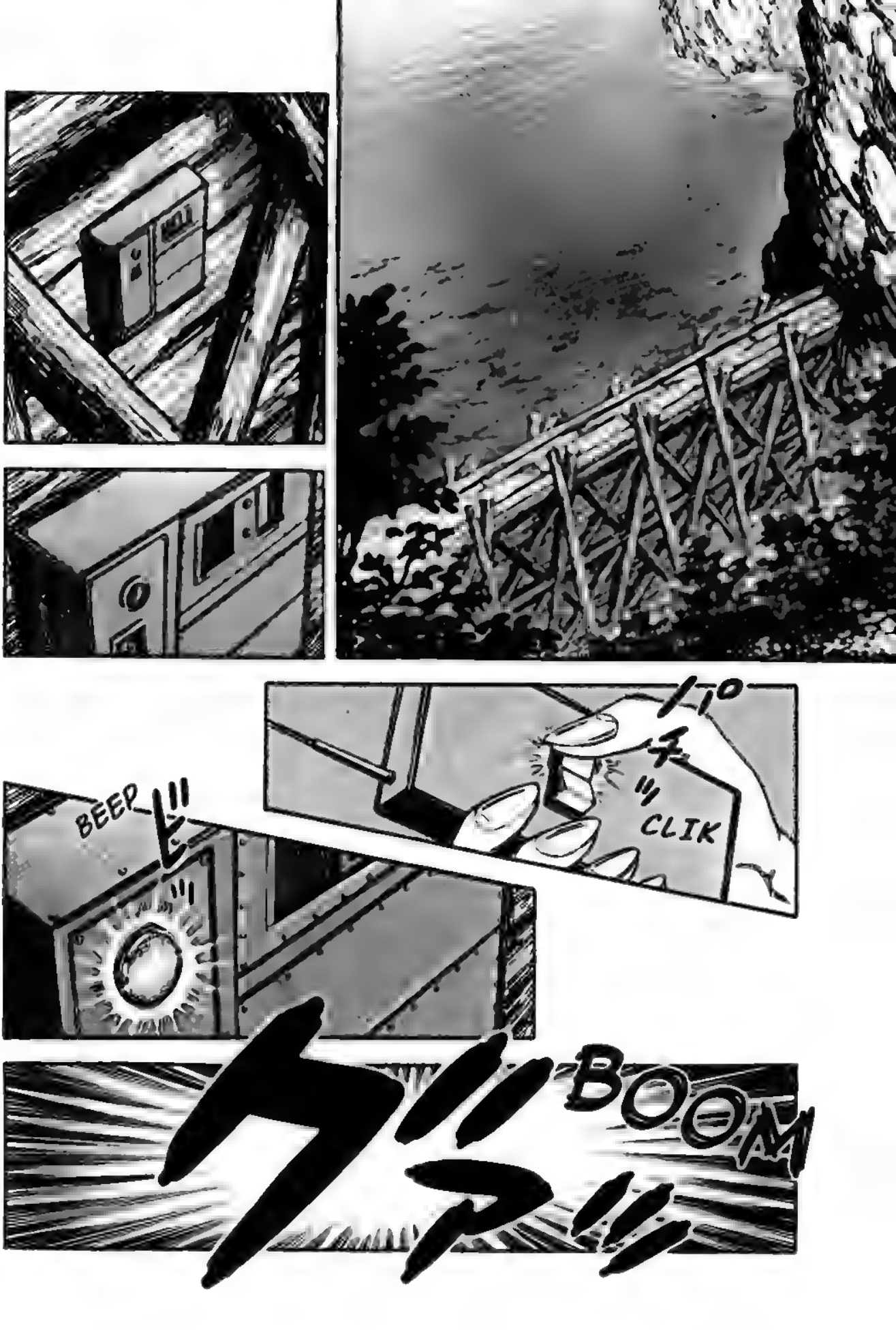
The castle... It will protect us.

??
Huh?!

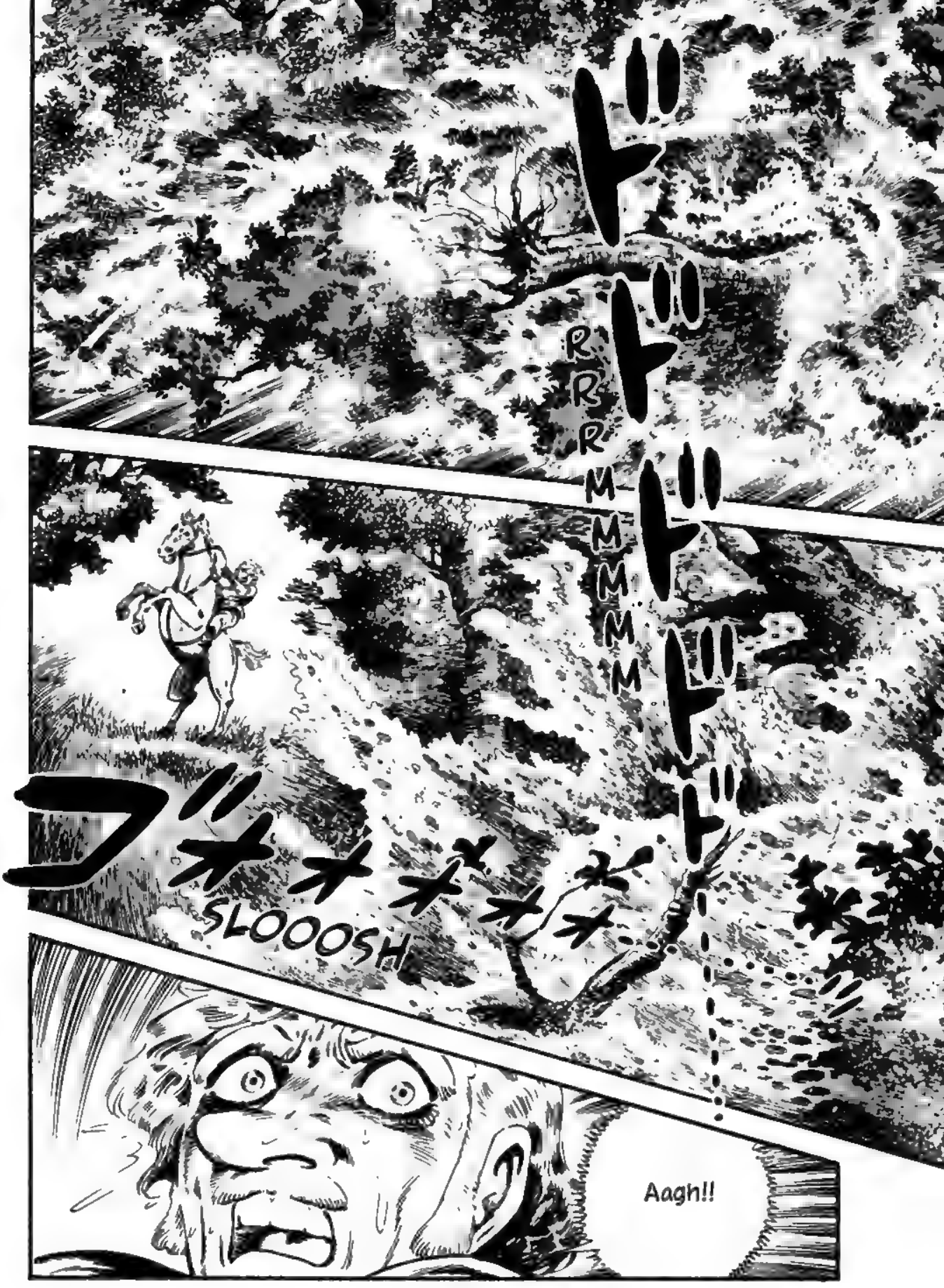
There's no time...
D-Doll! We have to find the bomb!!
What?! Do you want me to *die* here?!

Freedom! I'm finally free!!
Burn! Burn! You stole my youth... my *life*! Now be blown to smithereens, you monster!! I finally beat you!! Hah hah hah!
HAAAH HA HA HA HA
はーっ はっはっはっ……

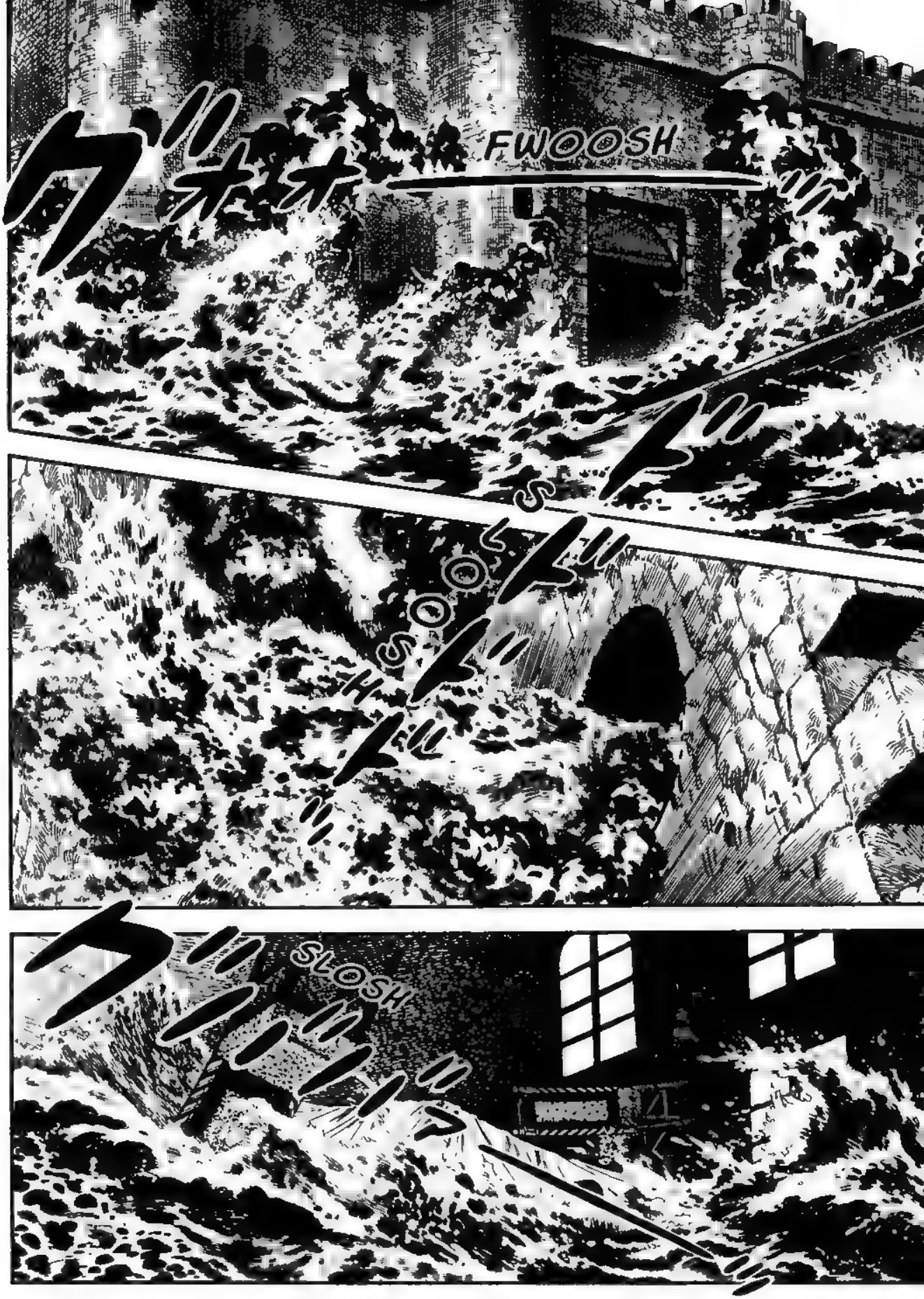



BEEP
CLIK
BOOM

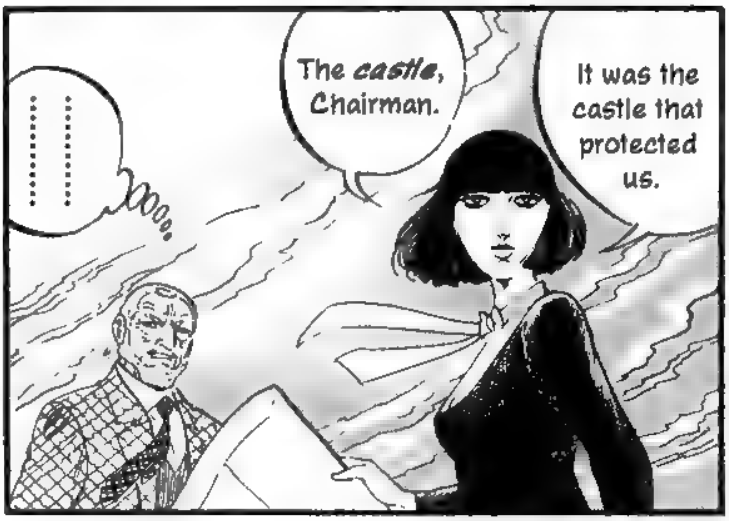
ズガガ
KRASH
BAKOOSH


ドドド

ドドド


ゴオオオ
FWOOSH
ゴオオオ
SLOSH
ゴオオオ
SLOSH
ゴオオオ

SPLASH
GASP
SPLASH



PRODUCTION STAFF

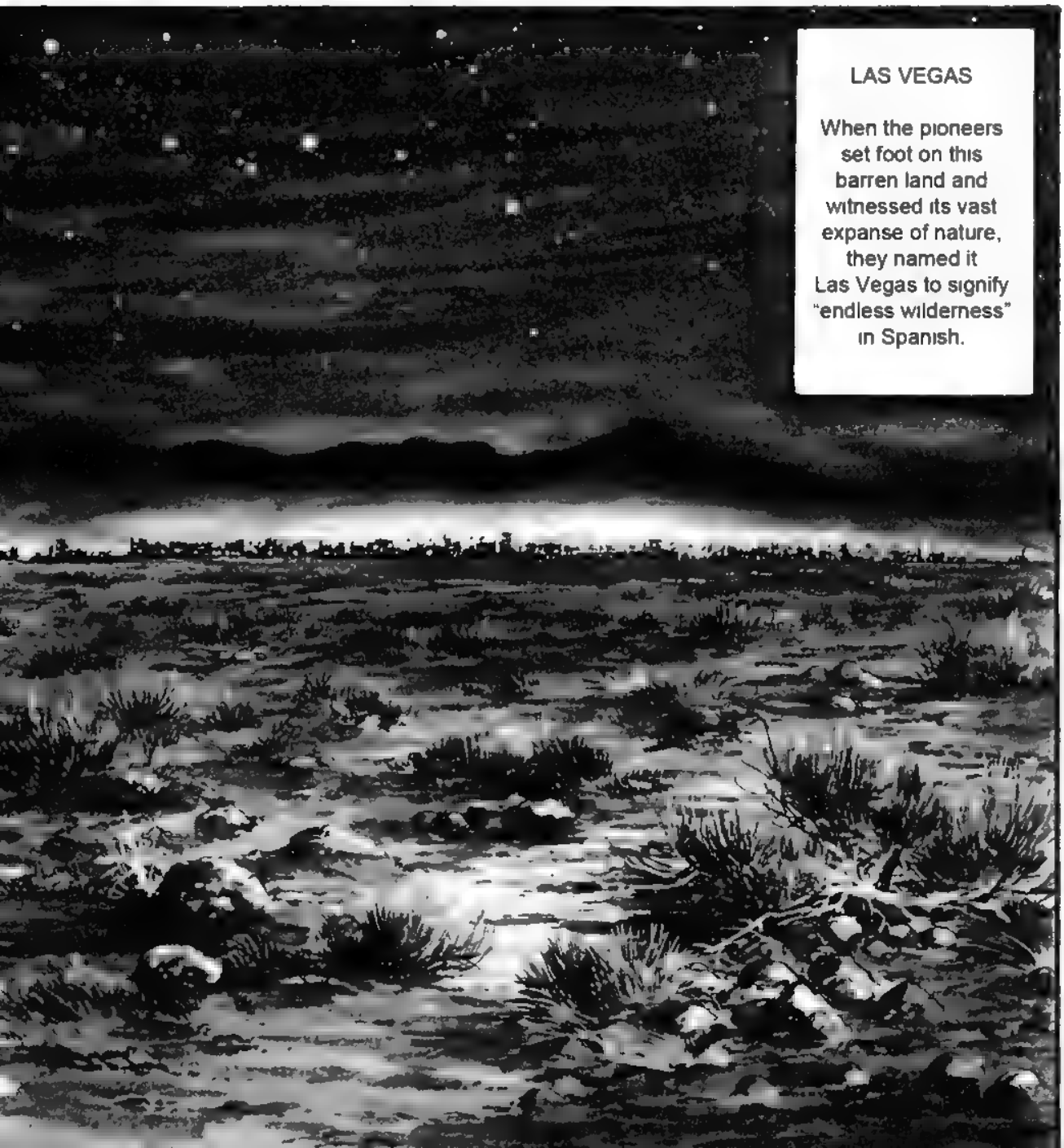
Direction: Takao Saito

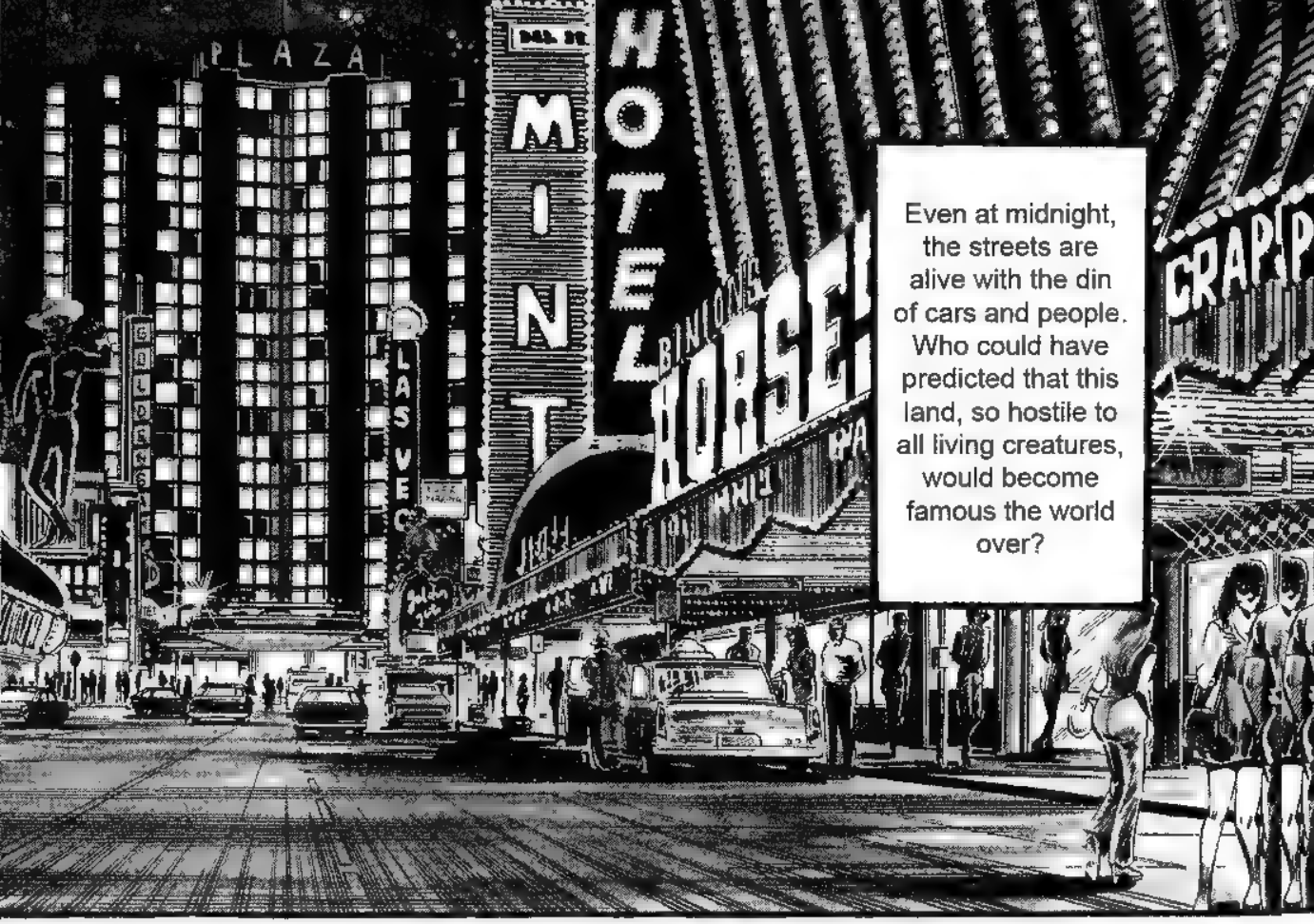
Layout: Saburo Takemoto, Takao Saito

Script: Mitsuo Aimono (assistance), Takao Saito

Art: Saburo Takemoto, Risuke Chiba, Wataru Tomobe, Rio Toshio

#3
NIGHT MANAGER

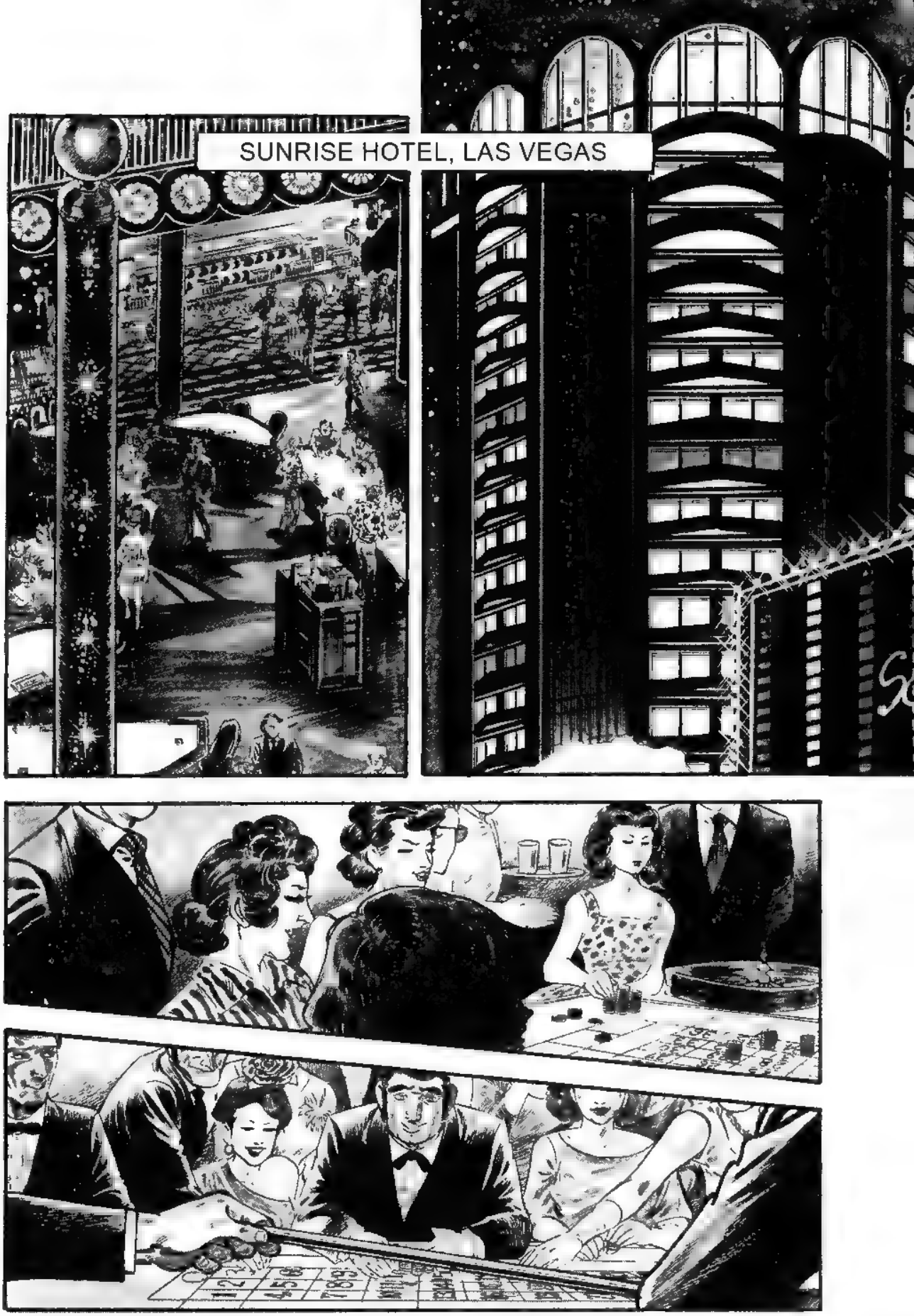

LAS VEGAS
When the pioneers set foot on this barren land and witnessed its vast expanse of nature, they named it Las Vegas to signify "endless wilderness" in Spanish.

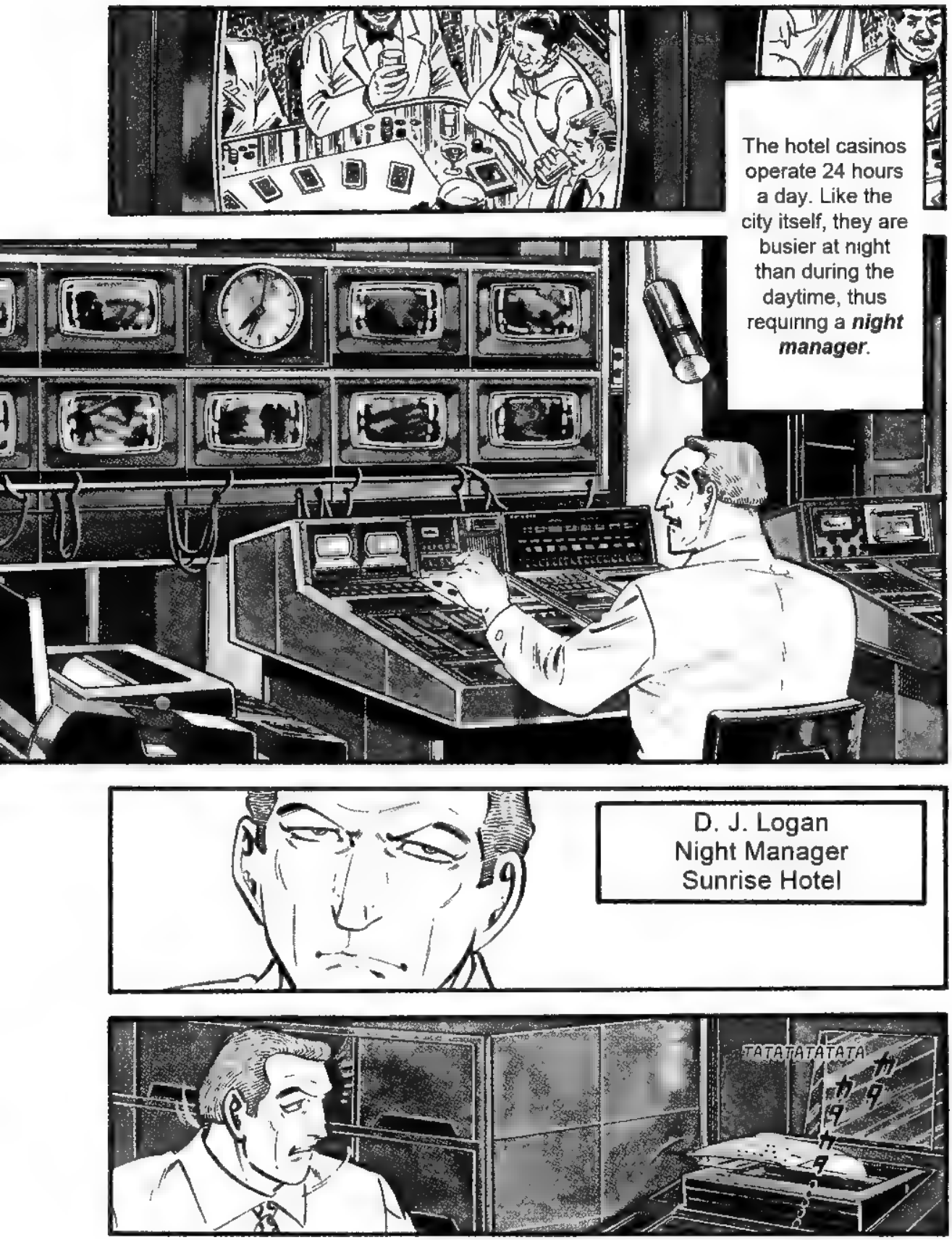

PLAZA
MINT
HOTEL
BINION'S
HORSESHOE
LAS VEGAS
CRAP
Even at midnight, the streets are alive with the din of cars and people. Who could have predicted that this land, so hostile to all living creatures, would become famous the world over?

T MANAGER

GOLDEN
CAGE

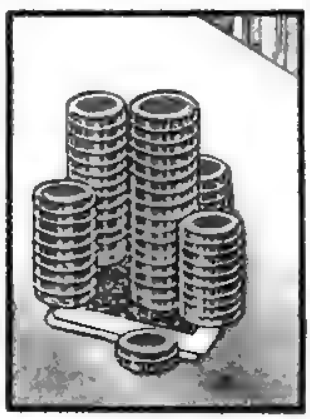
SALOON
CASINO
NIGHT


SUNRISE HOTEL, LAS VEGAS

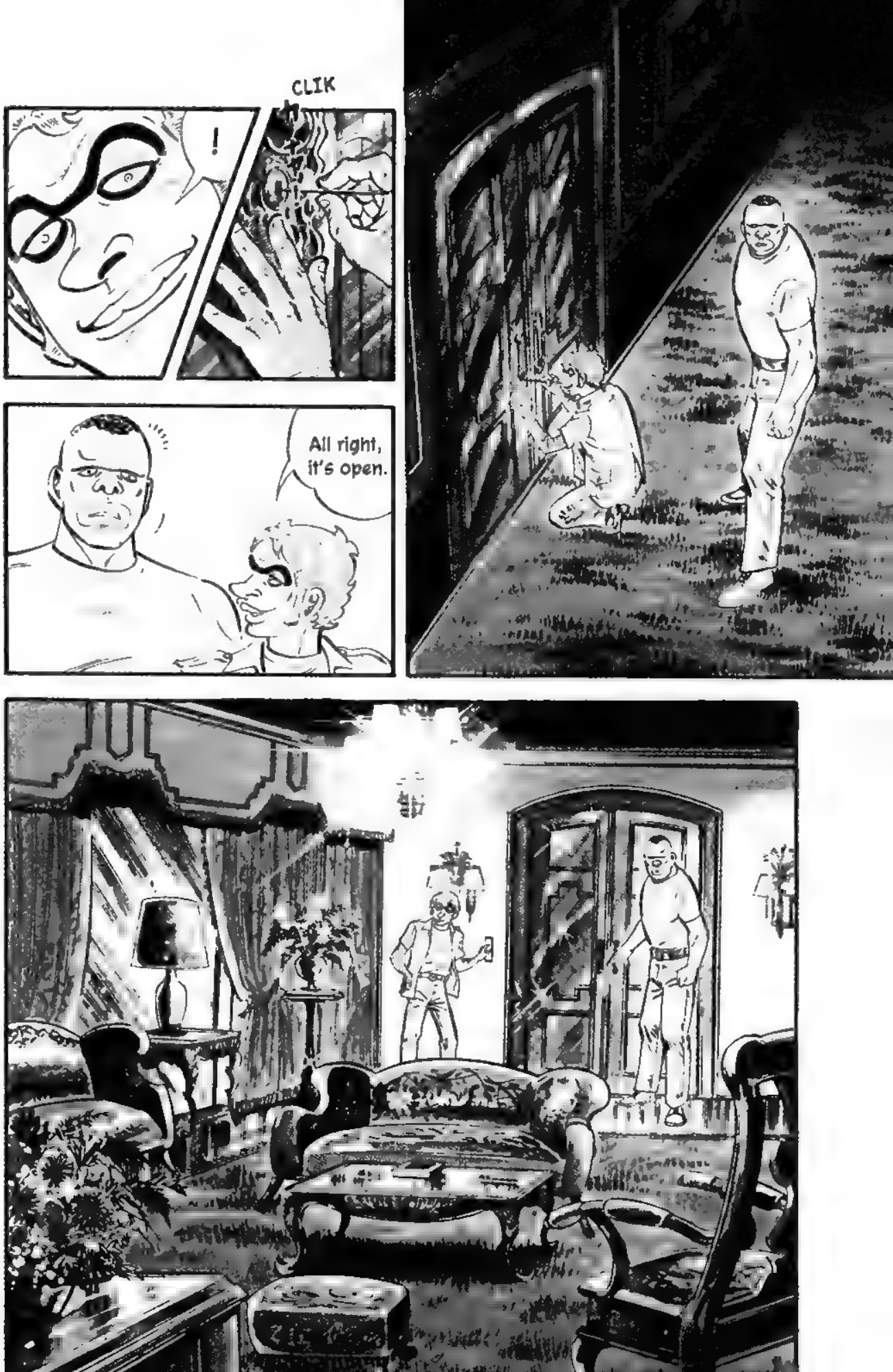

The hotel casinos operate 24 hours a day. Like the city itself, they are busier at night than during the daytime, thus requiring a ***night manager***.
D. J. Logan
Night Manager
Sunrise Hotel
TATATATATATA

SPECIAL GUEST ROOM

This room is for those patrons who play for the highest stakes.



He's a repeat offender who hits hotels.
Your hunch was right. His name is "Curtis the Rat."
.....
He wasn't on the head office's blacklist.
And the other, bigger man?


CLIK
!
All right, it's open.

FWUMP
FWUMP
Oh... right.
Keep a lookout!
Joe, stop fooling around!
KSHAK
Get behind the door!
OK!!
CLOMP
!!
KAKLIK KAKLIK

CREAK

A woman ?!

You came at the wrong time.
Heh heh heh. He's still downstairs risking his fortune!

Wh-Who're you?!
That's what *I'd* like to ask. Isn't this Prince Mohammed's room?

TUNK
Tie her up, Billy!
SWIP
CHOP
Argh!!
TUMP
FATUMP

WHIZZ
BLAM
SPAK
Agh!!
KCHIK
Wh-Why you...!!
Don't move!
!!

Agh!!
GRAIG
Wh-What happened?! I heard gunshots!
KACHAK
!!
.....
...drop your piece!!
If you want the manager to keep his head...
Heh heh heh!
SWIP

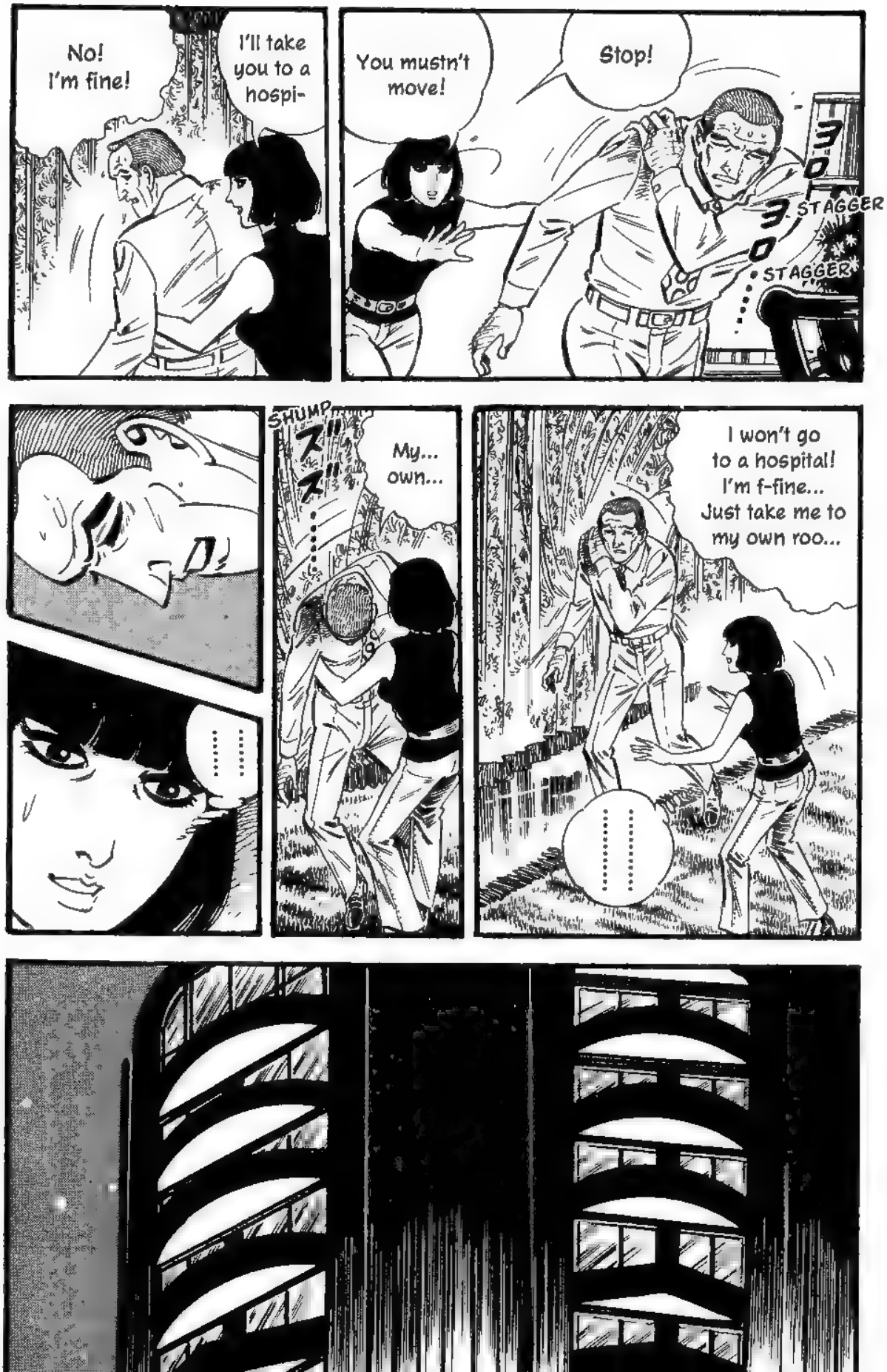
You want the manager to die?!
I said drop it!!
.....
But I *hate* "woman power"!
Impressive, for a woman.
.....
TNK
JI!
Heh heh heh! Good girl...
I've heard that Sunrise Hotel employs a female detective. Is that you?
Time to die, baby!!
And I never forgive anyone who interferes with my work!
S... Stop!!

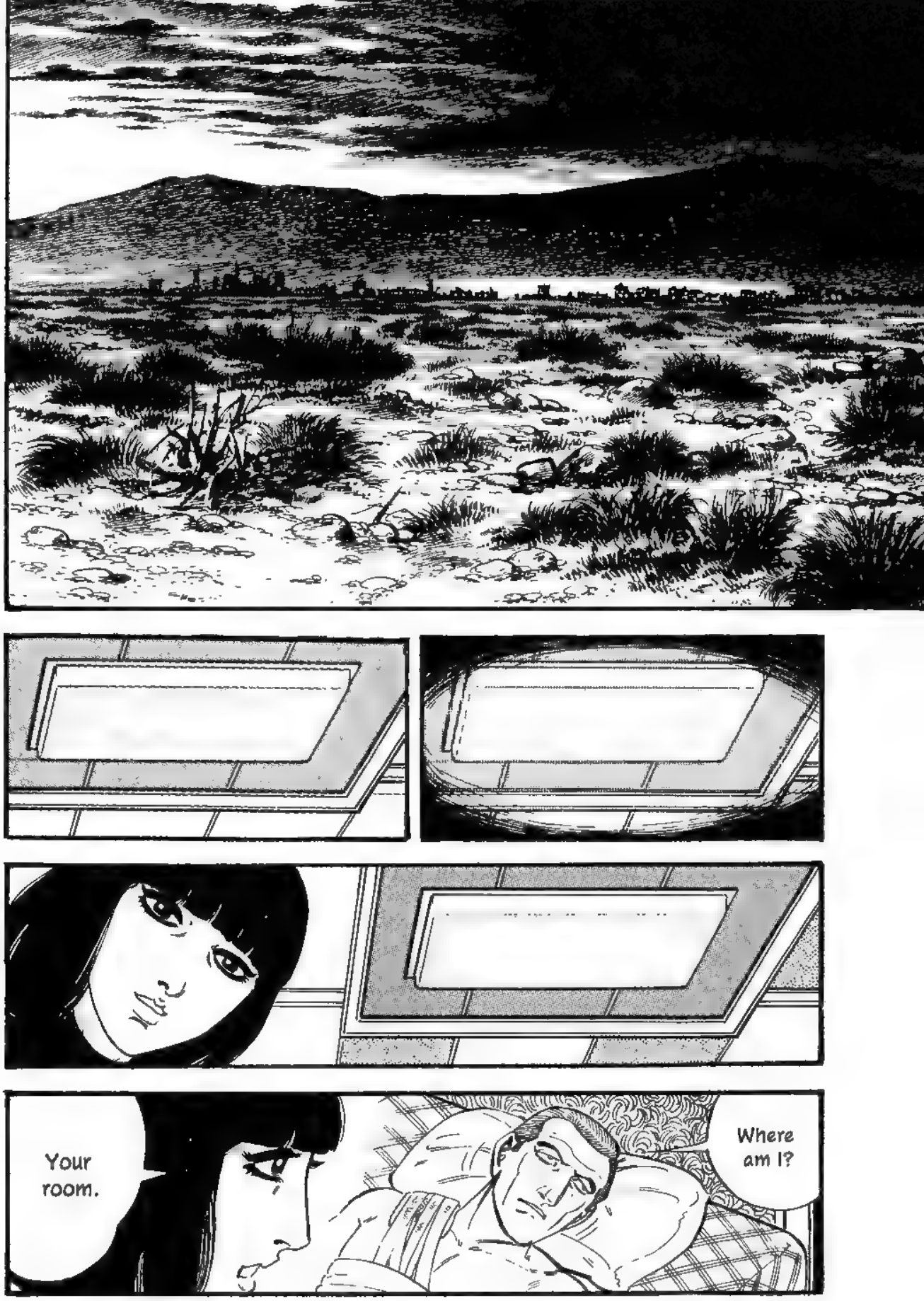
SWIP
CRRIK
LUNGE
Stop!!
Agh!!
BLAM
!!
KSHAK
Die!!
Gah!

TUG
!!
The cylinder won't move! I can't pull the trigger!!
D-Damn!!
Wh-What gives, Curtis?!
Gaaagh!!
SNAP
GRAB
FWACK

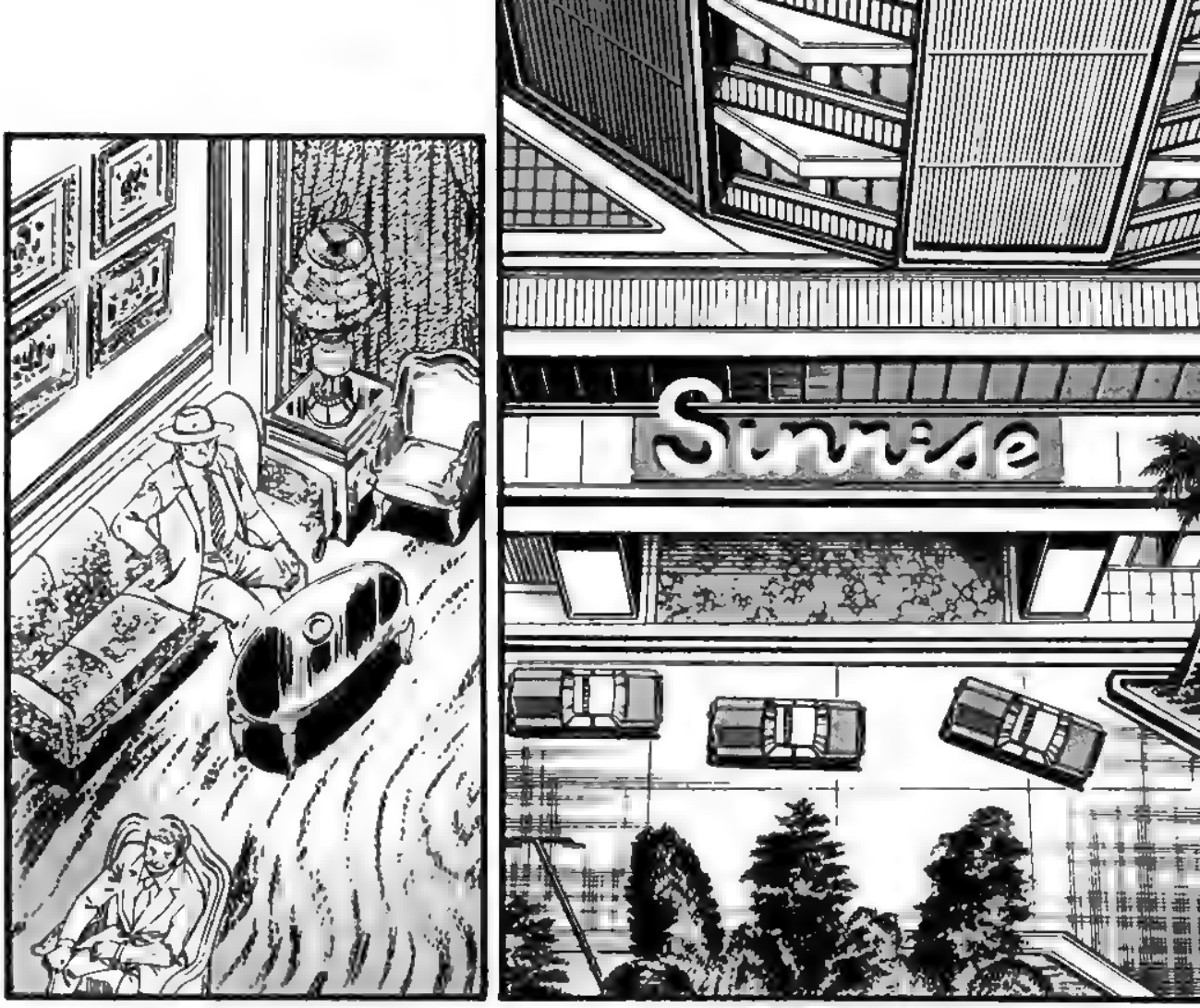
FWIP
SWISH
FOOM
Graah!!
WHAMMO
Oongh!!

W-
Wait...
Hm?
...to answer their questions.
D-Don't tell the police that I'm hurt. You be the one...
Please.
Sorry, but please...
Why?


No! I'm fine!
I'll take you to a hospi-
You mustn't move!
Stop!
STAGGER
STAGGER
SHUMP
My... own...
I won't go to a hospital! I'm f-fine... Just take me to my own roo...


Your room.
Where am I?

.....
.....
You really should go to a hospital.
I removed the bullet, but the wound is still open.
Yes. And I turned over the criminals.
Have the police finished questioning you?
Thank you. I'm sorry I troubled you.
I'm fine. I don't need a hospital. I just need rest.
No, you protected me. I should be the one to-
.....
Well done.
Oh...

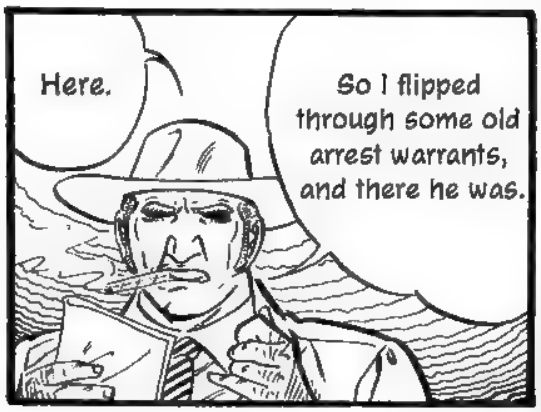

Sunrise

Do you have any more questions, Detective Silver?
No problem.
Thank you for earlier.

Huh?
How is the night manager's condition?

...and won't talk to us either...
Funny how he won't go to a hospital...

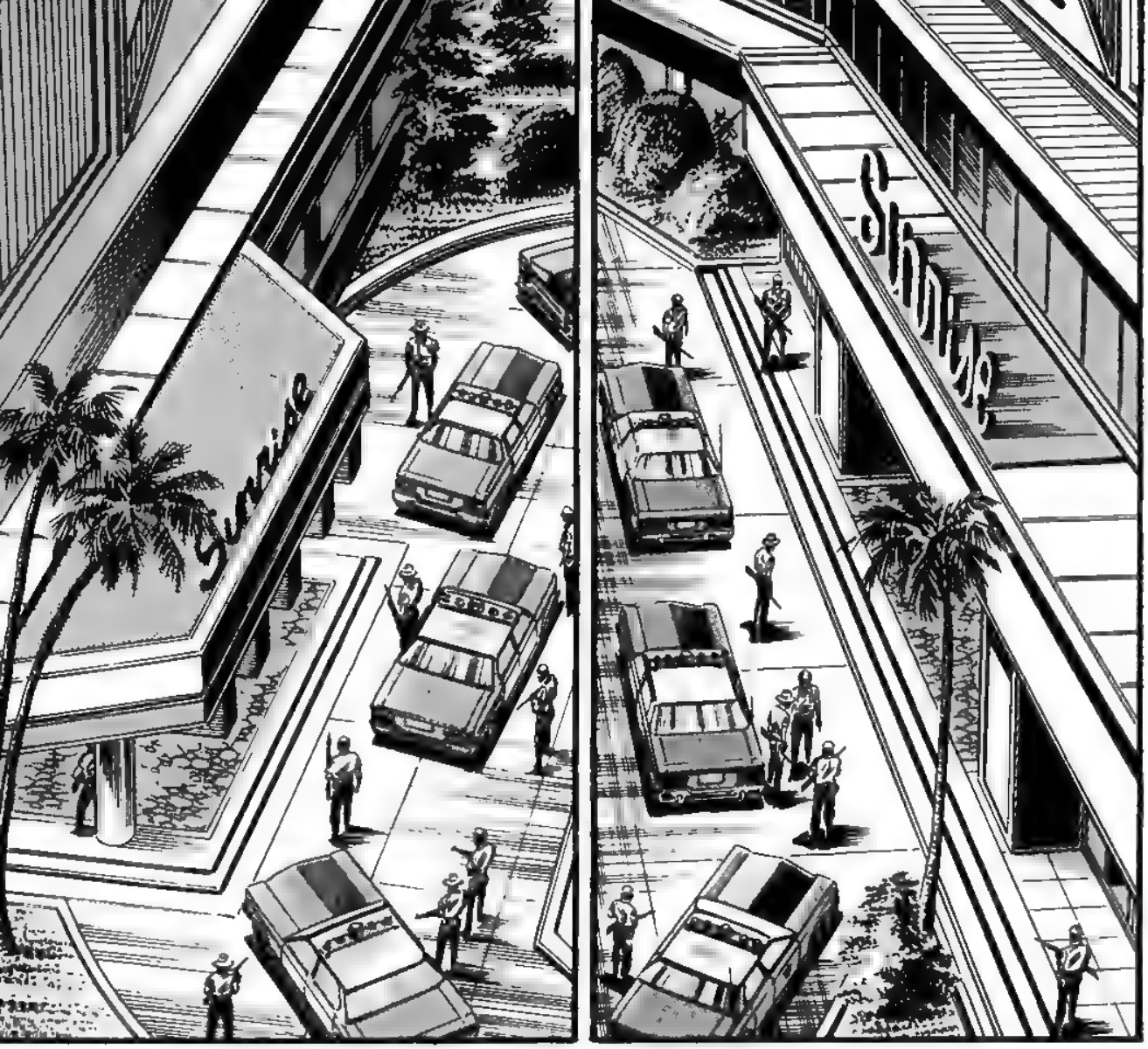
Curtis told me he shot him.


Here.
So I flipped through some old arrest warrants, and there he was.

He's a murderer !!
He killed his wife and her lover five years ago and he's been on the run ever since.
!

...almost as if he's *avoiding* me.
Anyone would find that suspicious. I've heard he's a competent man, but I never get to talk to him...
I've always wondered about him, and this made me even more suspicious.

If you don't, I must refuse.
Urg...!
Do you have a warrant?
...you took me to him!
So it's time...
Don't be stubborn. We'll just keep the hotel surrounded until the warrant is ready!
Urrrgh...
...you'll have to present a warrant.
Handling trouble at this hotel is *my* job. If you want to arrest the night manager...
.....
.....
Go right ahead.


Sunrise
Shuttle

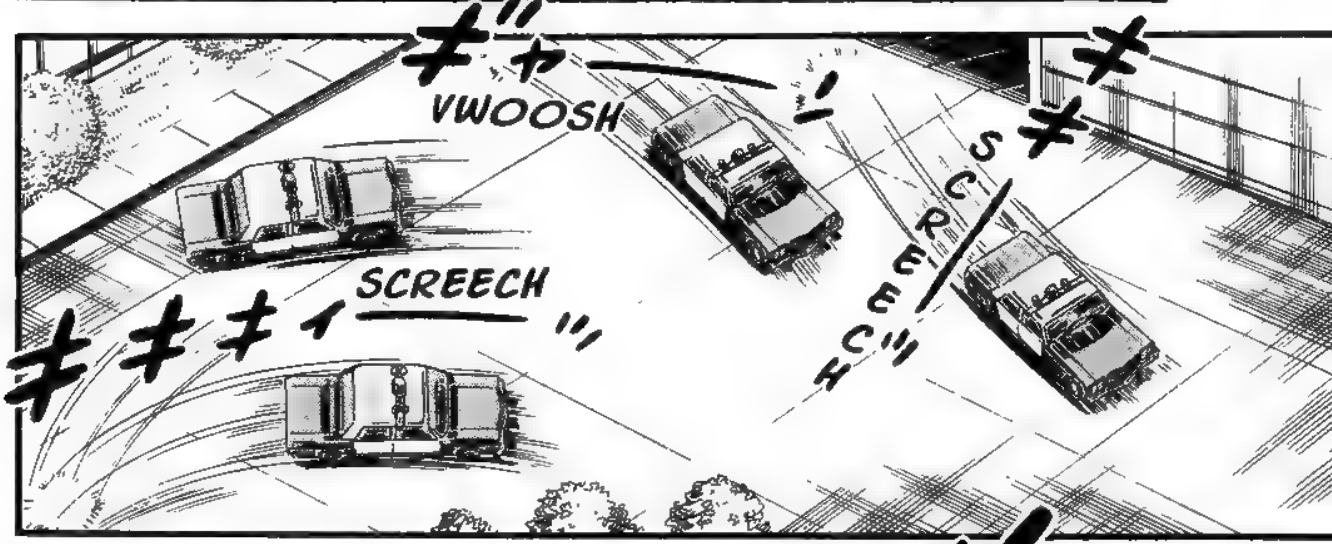
Nngh...
.....
.....
...I was able to put everything in order.
Thanks to the time you bought...
There. All done.
.....
I changed while I was working at a small motor inn near L.A. I learned the pleasure of work.
You may laugh, but I was betting on chance when I killed my wife. And when I took this job, too.

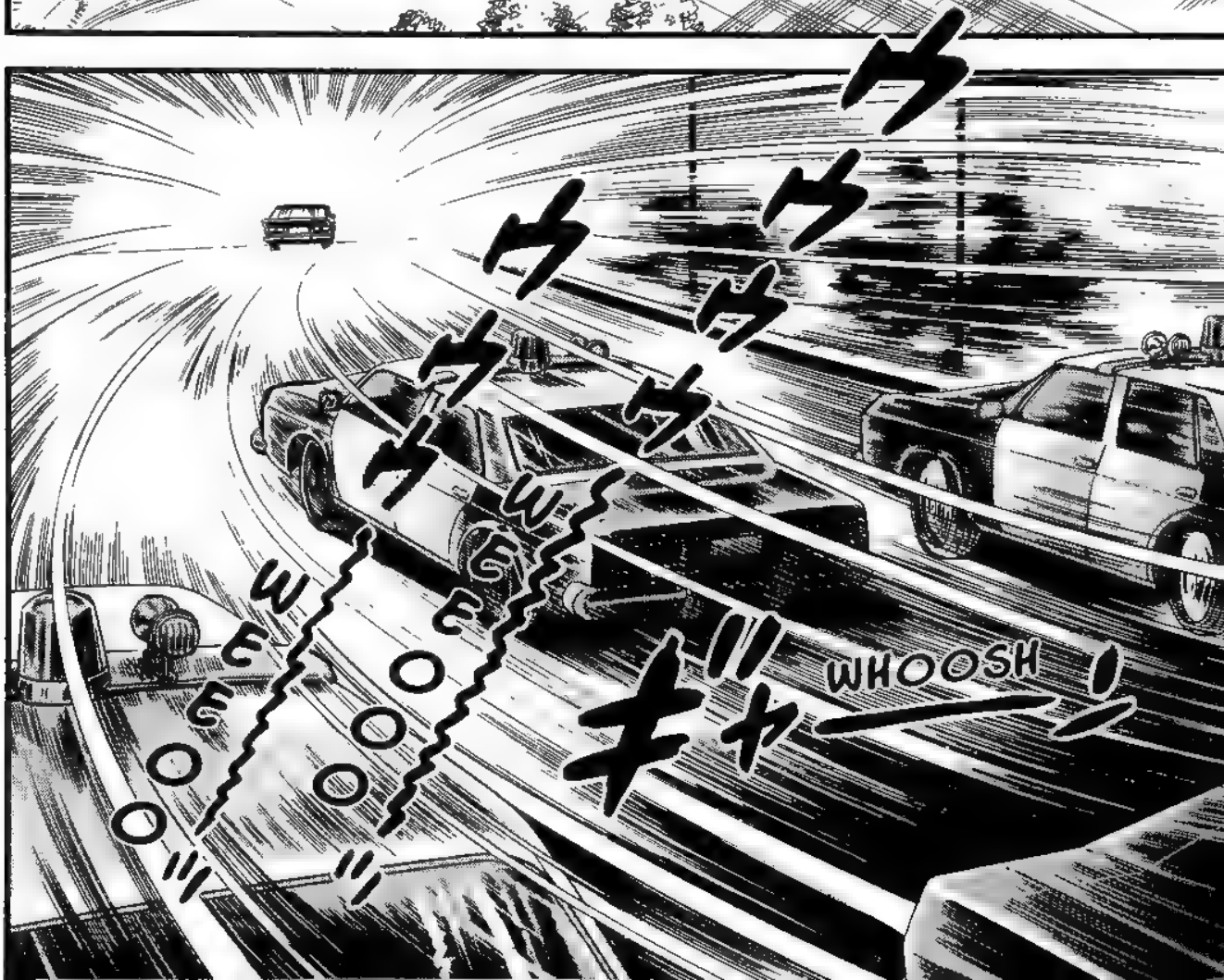
...of running this giant hotel. I found a reason for living!
My heart came alive at the thought...
That's when the chairman asked me to become night manager.
.....
But I mustn't cause the hotel any more trouble.
...doing my duty as night manager.
Nah, I was just...
If you hadn't helped me...
What do you mean, Doll?
Huh?
Feel like taking another risk on chance, Mr. Logan?
.....
...it's all over now.
FUMP
Any-way...
.....

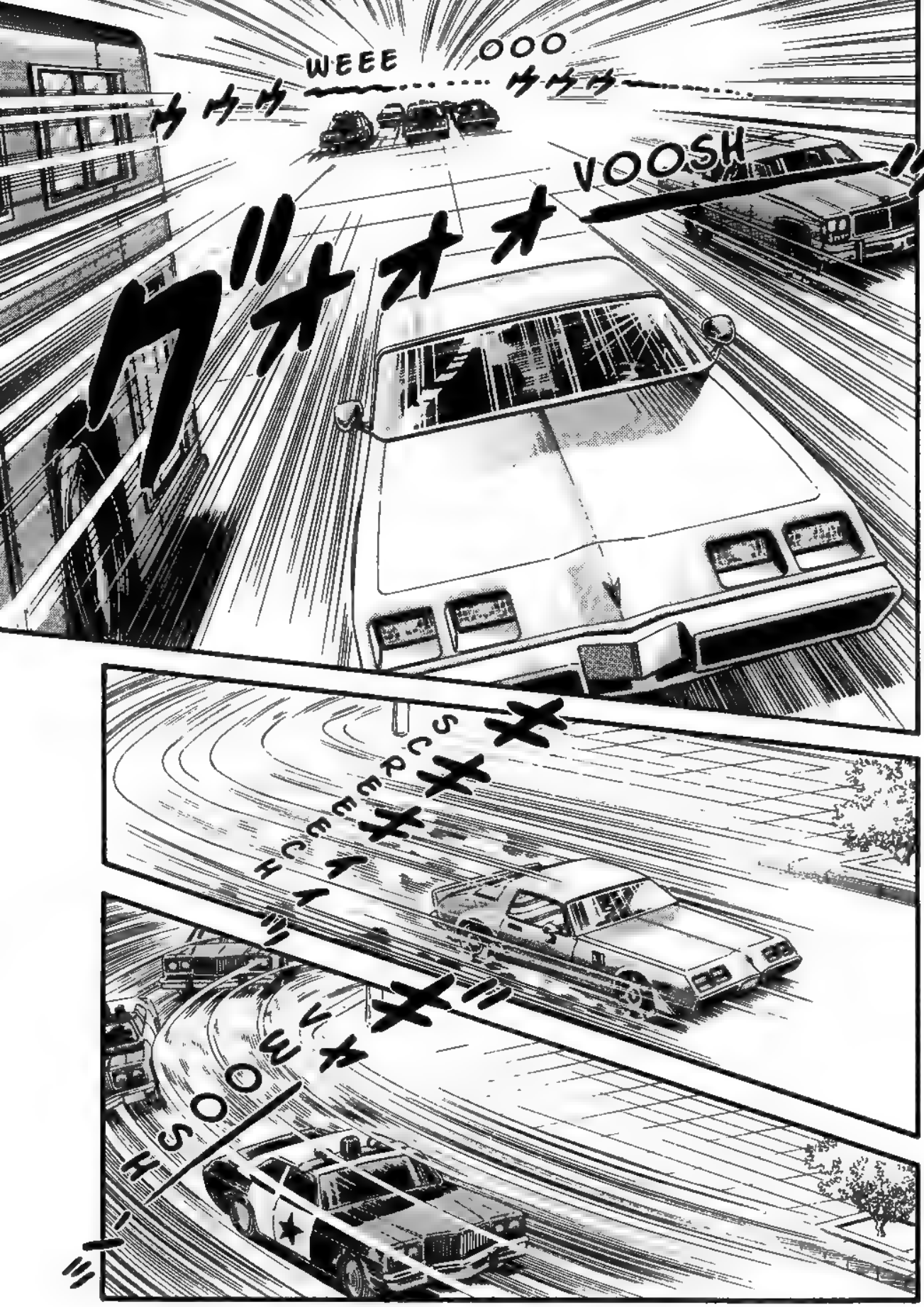
……
!!
ドロロロ

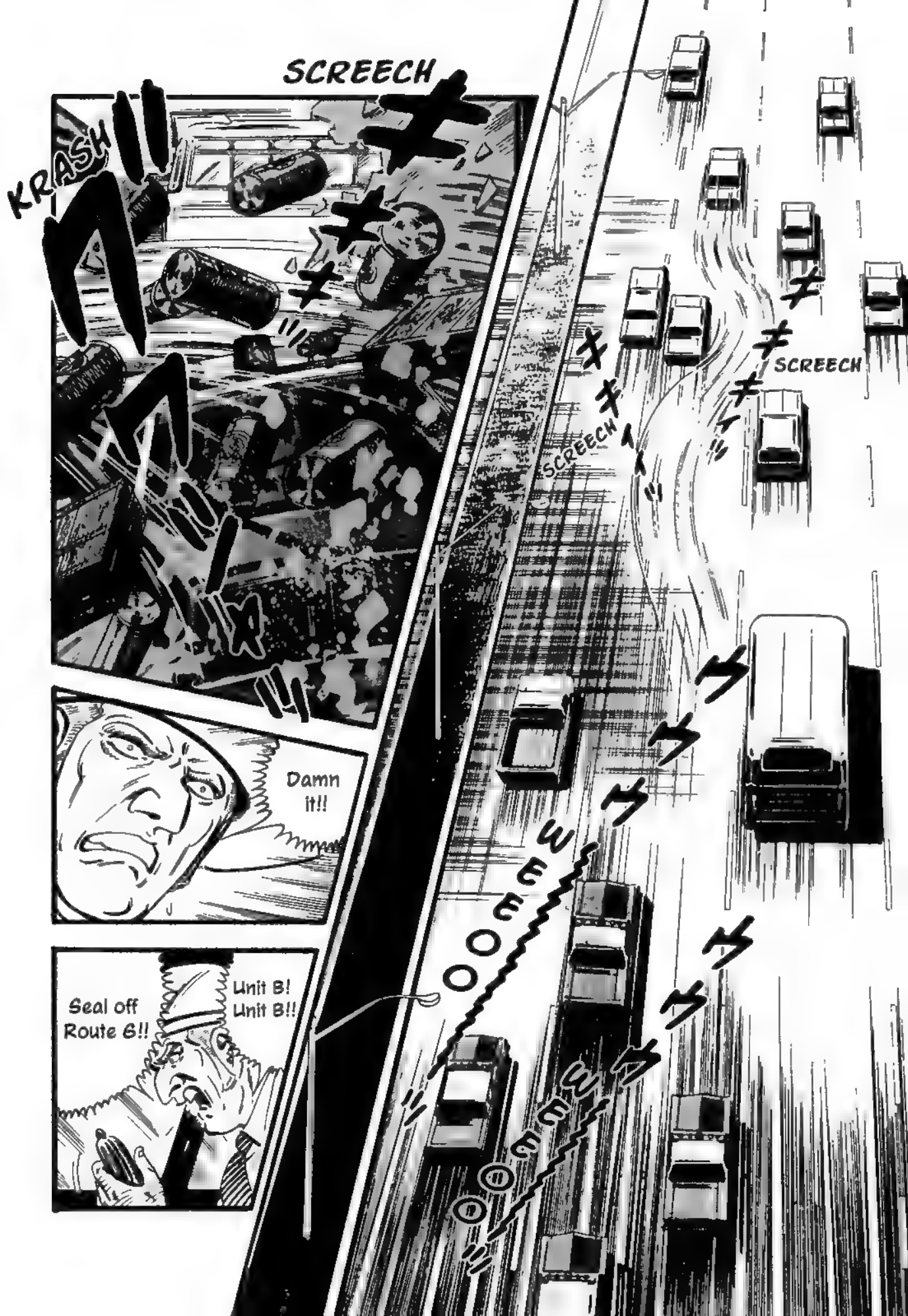
SMASH
VOOSH
SCRAASH
SCREEECH

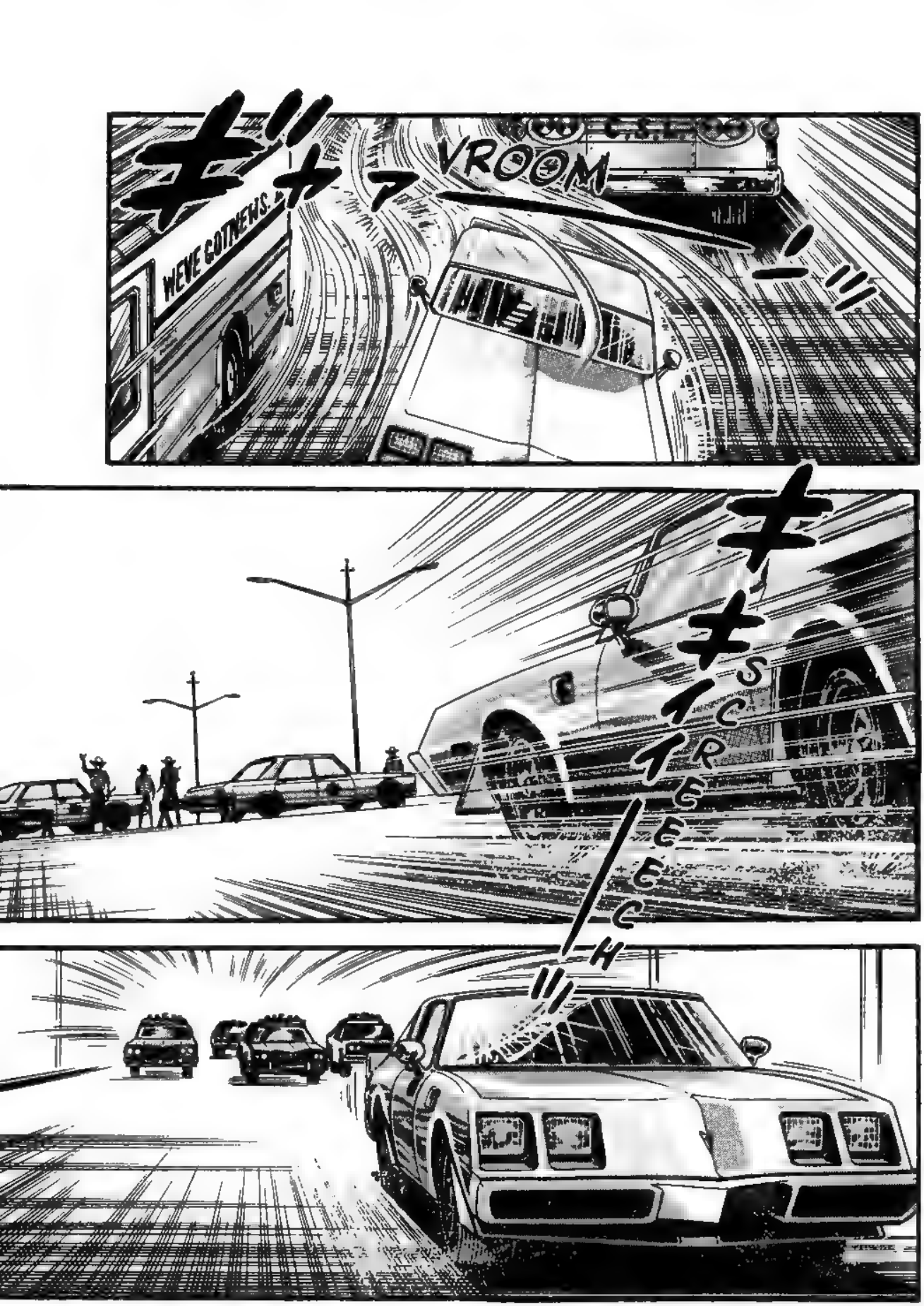
Don't let him get away!!

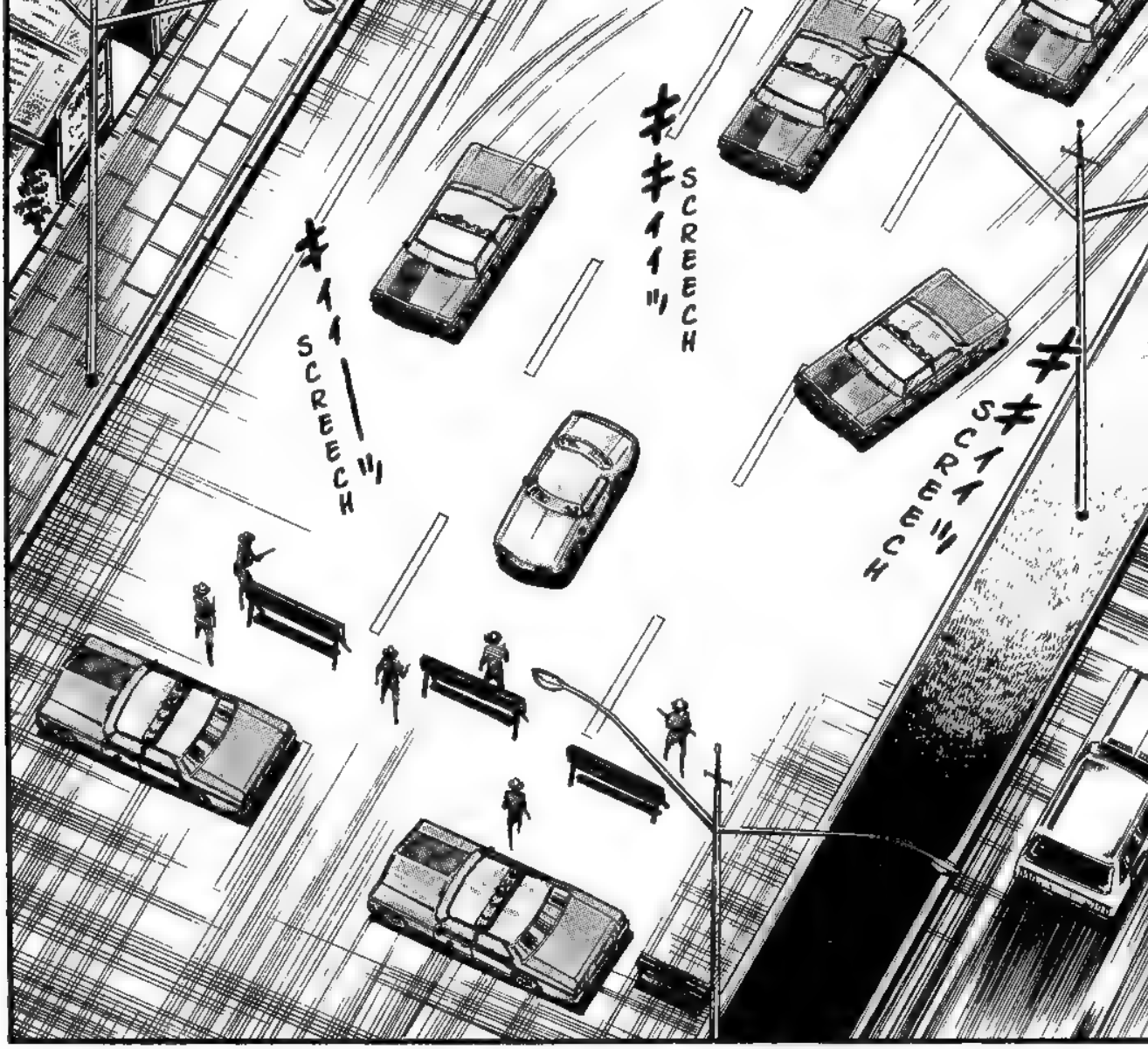

VWOOSH
SCREECH
SCREECH


WHOOSH
WEEOOOOOOO


WEEE OOO
VOOSH
SCREEECH
WOOSH


SCREECH
KRASH!!
Damn it!!
Unit B! Unit B!!
Seal off Route 6!!
SCREECH
SCREECH
WEEOOO
WEEOOO


WE'VE GOT NEWS...
VROOM
SCREEEEECH


SCREECH
SCREECH
SCREECH
SCREECH

CHAK

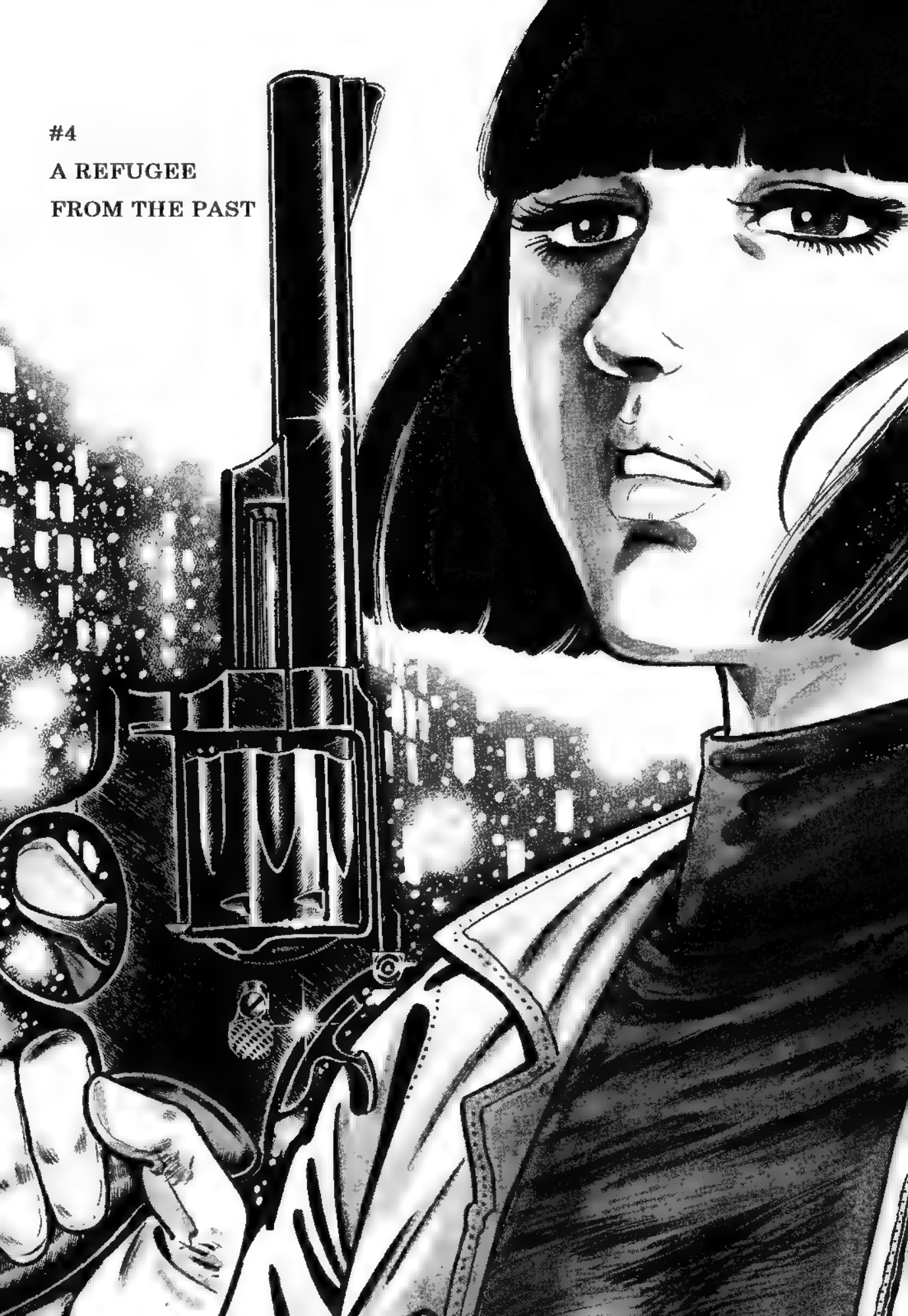
Get outta the car, Logan!!

Silly me...
Sorry, I guess my bad mood affected my driving.
!!
CHAK
Oh, come now...
Y-You lured us away so Logan could escape!!
Urrrgh...
You've got *some* imagination!
You followed me of your own accord.

ブロロロ

#4

A REFUGEE FROM THE PAST



MONTREAL CANADA

INT 2320
IL
IL
IL
IL
IL
IL
R
R
OOM

SUNRISE HOTEL

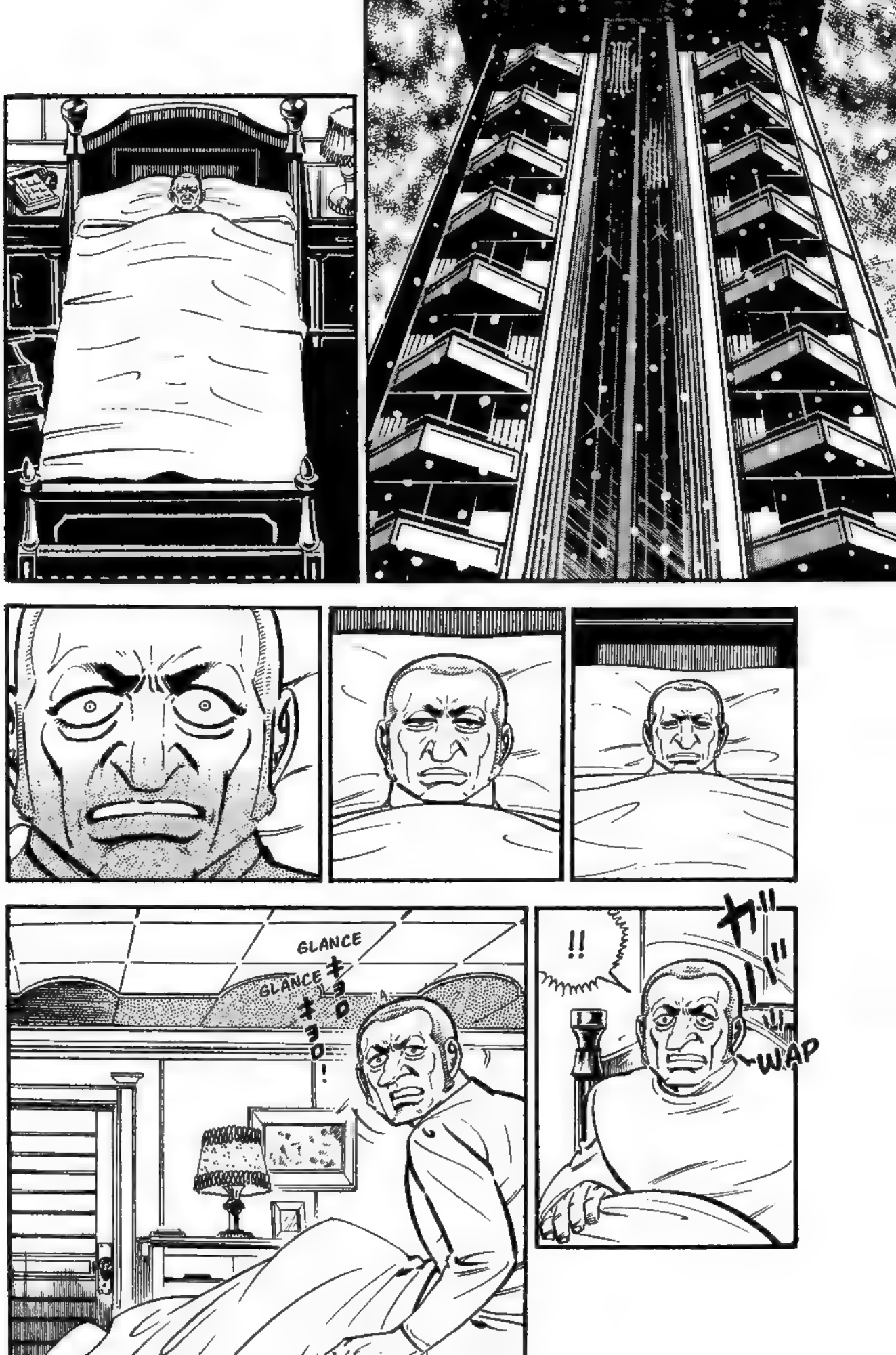
!!
SHEEEN
WOOSH

WHAMMM
!!
SCREECH

Huh?!
SCRSSHHH
KTNK
VROOOM
KASHOOM
SCREECH

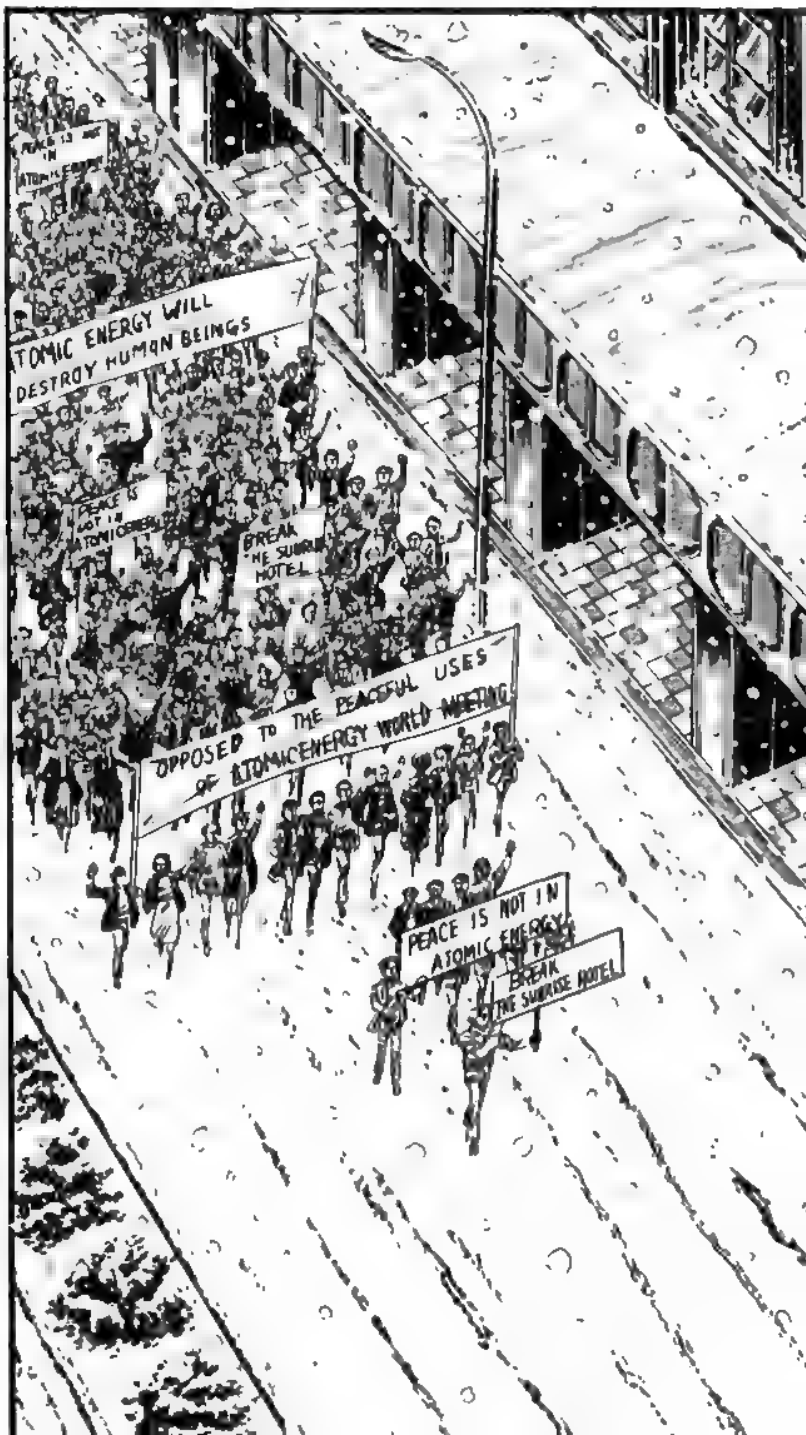
CHAK
VWOOSH
VROOOM

A REFUGEE FROM THE PAST


GLANCE
GLANCE
キョロ
キョロ
!
!!
カ!!
!!!
WAP

You're awake?
Who am I?!
I d-don't remember anything... Who am I?!
Why am I here?!
Wh-Where am I?!
?
!!
.....

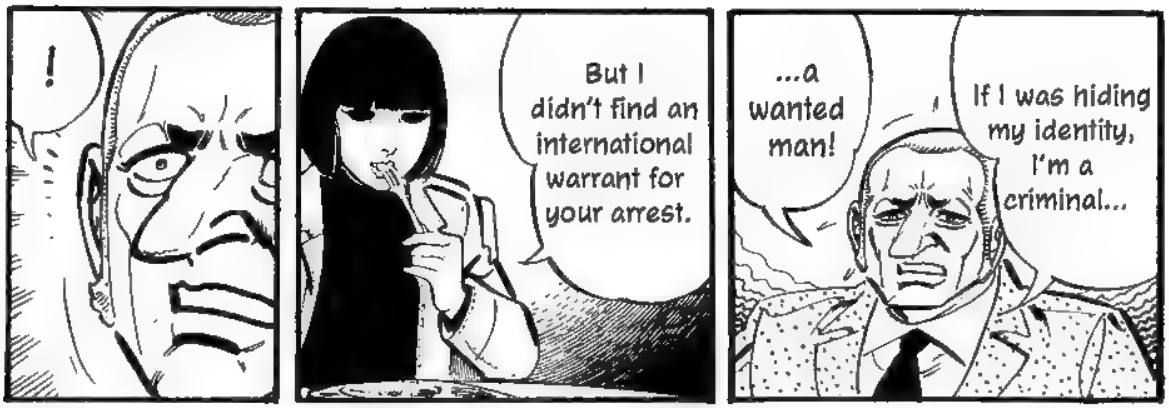
PEACE IS NOT IN ATOMIC ENERGY!
ECEFUL
S OF
NERGY
ORLD
ETING!!
WE WA
PEAC


TOMIC ENERGY WILL
DESTROY HUMAN BEINGS
OPPOSED TO THE PEACEFUL USES
OF ATOMICENERGY WORLD MEETING
PEACE IS NOT IN
ATOMIC ENERGY!
BREAK
THE SUNRISE HOTEL

ヒュウウ
RSSH
!!
?!
?

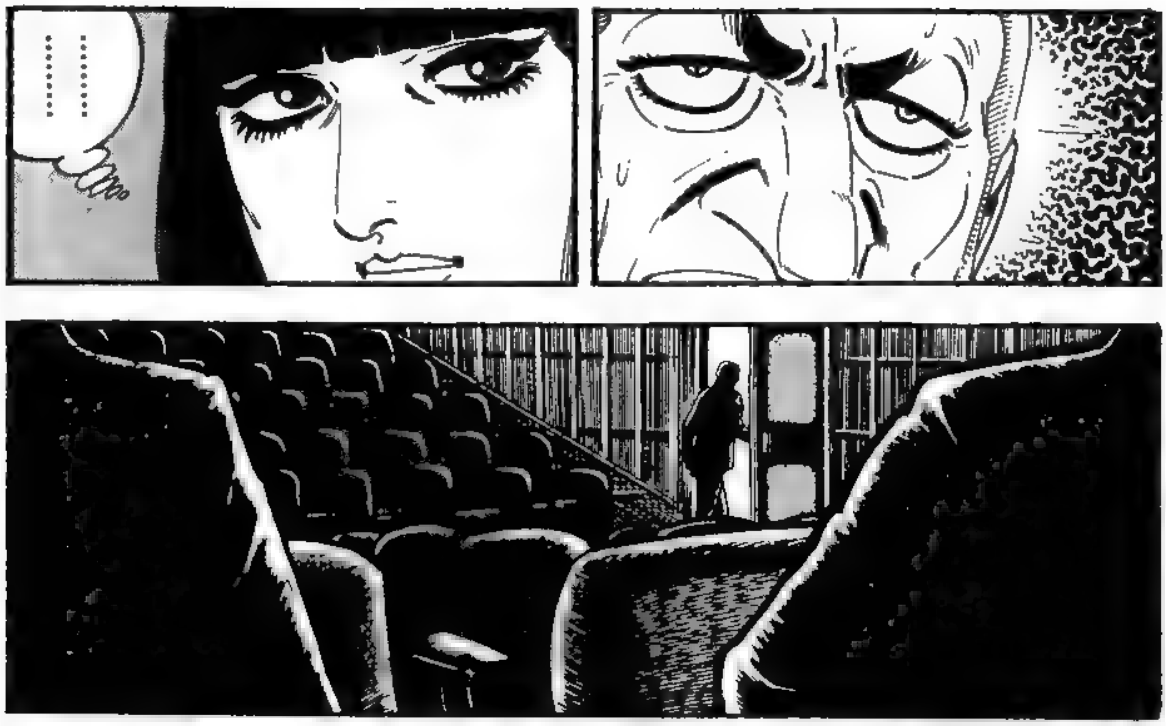
...but I'm just here on the lecture circuit.
Those demonstrators think I'm someone consequential, too...
I am Sunrise Hotel's detective, Mr. Nero. Your appearance always causes a scandal.
Doll... I didn't know you were here.
Wherever you use the Sunrise Hotel, there I will be.
?
VRSSHH

I... I don't remember.
Do you know him?
2 3 4 5 6 7
.....
Perhaps you were hiding your purpose here.
Your personal items held no clues to your identity.
I didn't have a passport?
!


!
But I didn't find an international warrant for your arrest.
...a wanted man!
If I was hiding my identity, I'm a criminal...

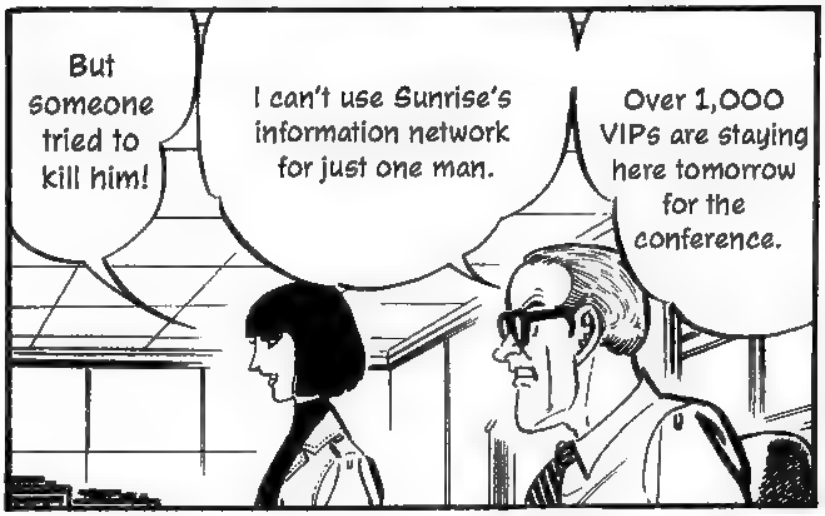
.....
I will look after you until your memory returns.
.....
What should I do...?

If you want to regain your memory, you should watch the film.
While unconscious, you were mumbling about this conference.
.....
!!
Stop! Stop it!!

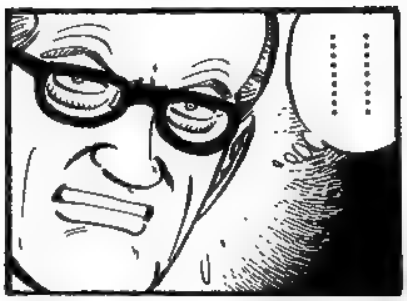

.....

Do you think...

Yes.
...he is trying to avoid remembering his past?

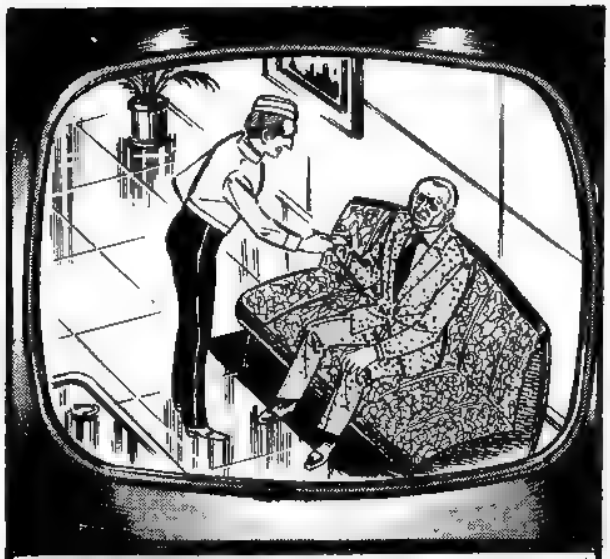

But someone tried to kill him!
I can't use Sunrise's information network for just one man.
Over 1,000 VIPs are staying here tomorrow for the conference.

...we'll never know who he is.
But unless he remembers ...


.....

If he's involved with a threat to the hotel, we must find out!
And right in front of the hotel.

.....



!!

...you know me?
Are you the ones who say...

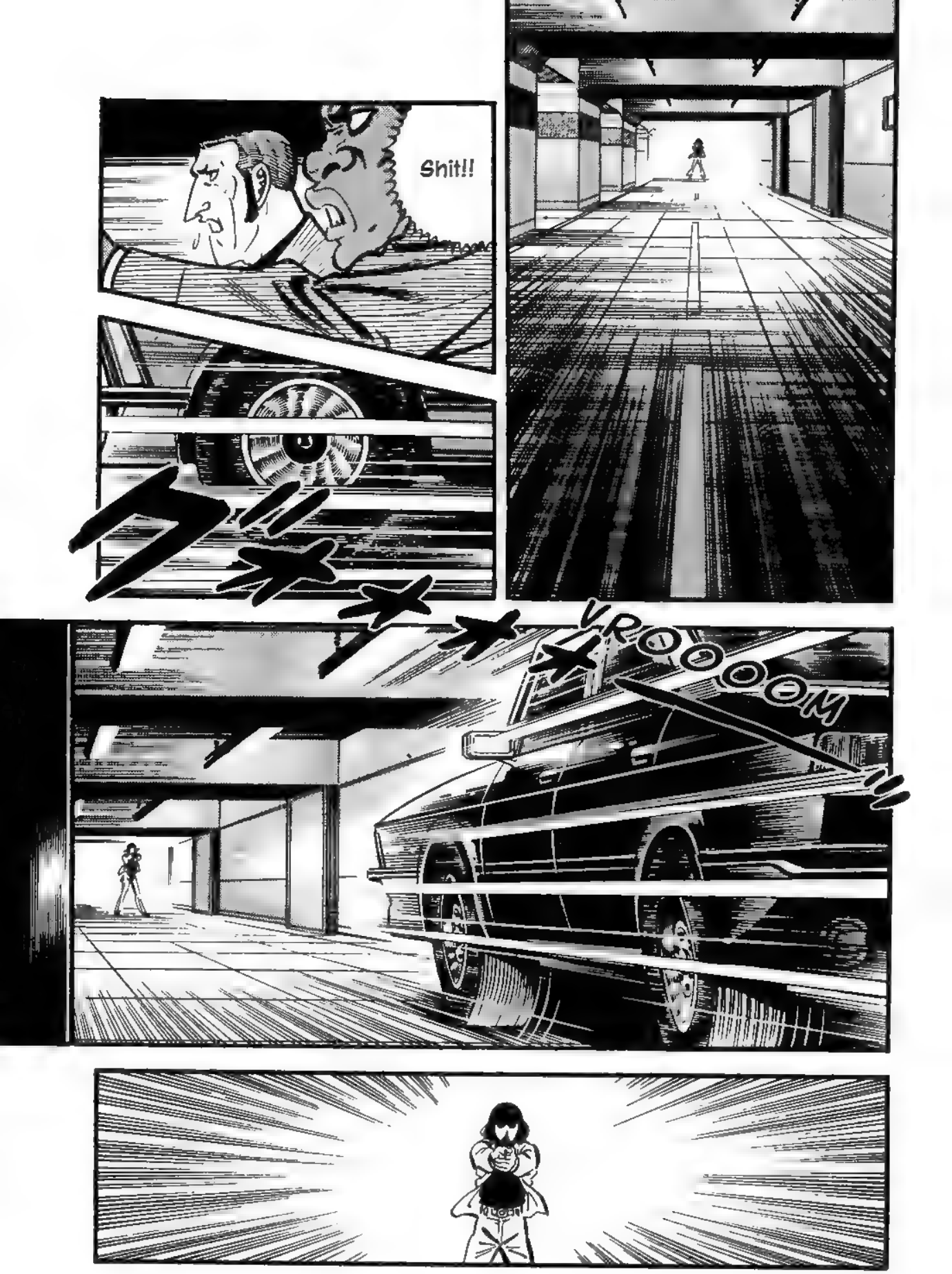
Over here.
!!

.....
Hmph.
He really doesn't remember ...
!!
KSHAK
BLAM
!!
!!
SPAK

SPAK
Agh!!
BLAM
Tch!!
SWIP
SCREECH
VROOM
SHUMP
They won't get away!
This parking lot isn't just any basement.
Catch them!!
They know who I am!!
WHOOSH
SCREECH

!!
It's a nuclear fallout shelter designed so that in the case of nuclear war, 5,000 people can survive here for two to three weeks.
SCREECH
Human beings make enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world 60 times over and then have to make places like this for their own protection.
If you think about it, it's quite ironic!

What the-?! This way's no good either!!
Research shows that radioactive contamination can decrease a thousandfold in two weeks Fallout shelters were conceived to allow for survival during that time
SCREECH
SCREEEECH
S.C.R.E.E.C.H
!!
VROOSH


Shit!!
グオオオ
VROOOOM

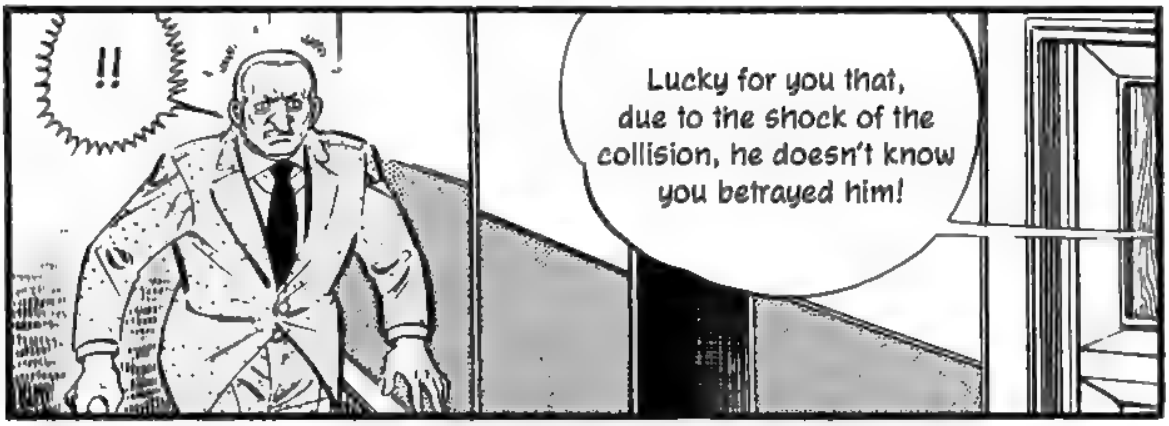
BLAM
SCREECH
VOOM
SWERVE
KRASH

THE NEXT MORNING
The day of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy World Meeting
TATA
TATA
TATA

Come in!
ZWIP
NOK
NOK
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
SHF
!!
KACHAK
!!
I ran across two killers carrying a note with your room number on it!
Not so fast, Mr. Nero.
It's check-out time. I don't have time to speak with you.

...and threatens big corporations in order to receive "contributions"!
Under the mask of a community leader, you're a villain who embezzles the people's donations...
I risk my life for the freedom and peace of the city's citizens, and you accuse me of involvement with killers?!
I don't have time for this nonsense!
.....
.....
FWIP
!!
SWIP
This is the announcement you planned to make after the conference hall explodes!
I knew it!
Wh-What are you doing?!

You intended to kill him and make it look like a car accident!
...an accident at a nuclear research facility.
Your plan to blow up the conference used a demolitions specialist by the name of *Green*, a man whose family was killed by a related organization in order to hide...


!!
Lucky for you that, due to the shock of the collision, he doesn't know you betrayed him!

This was *Green's* idea, you know!
You've found me out, but it's too late! The bomb will go off in five minutes!
Five minutes?!

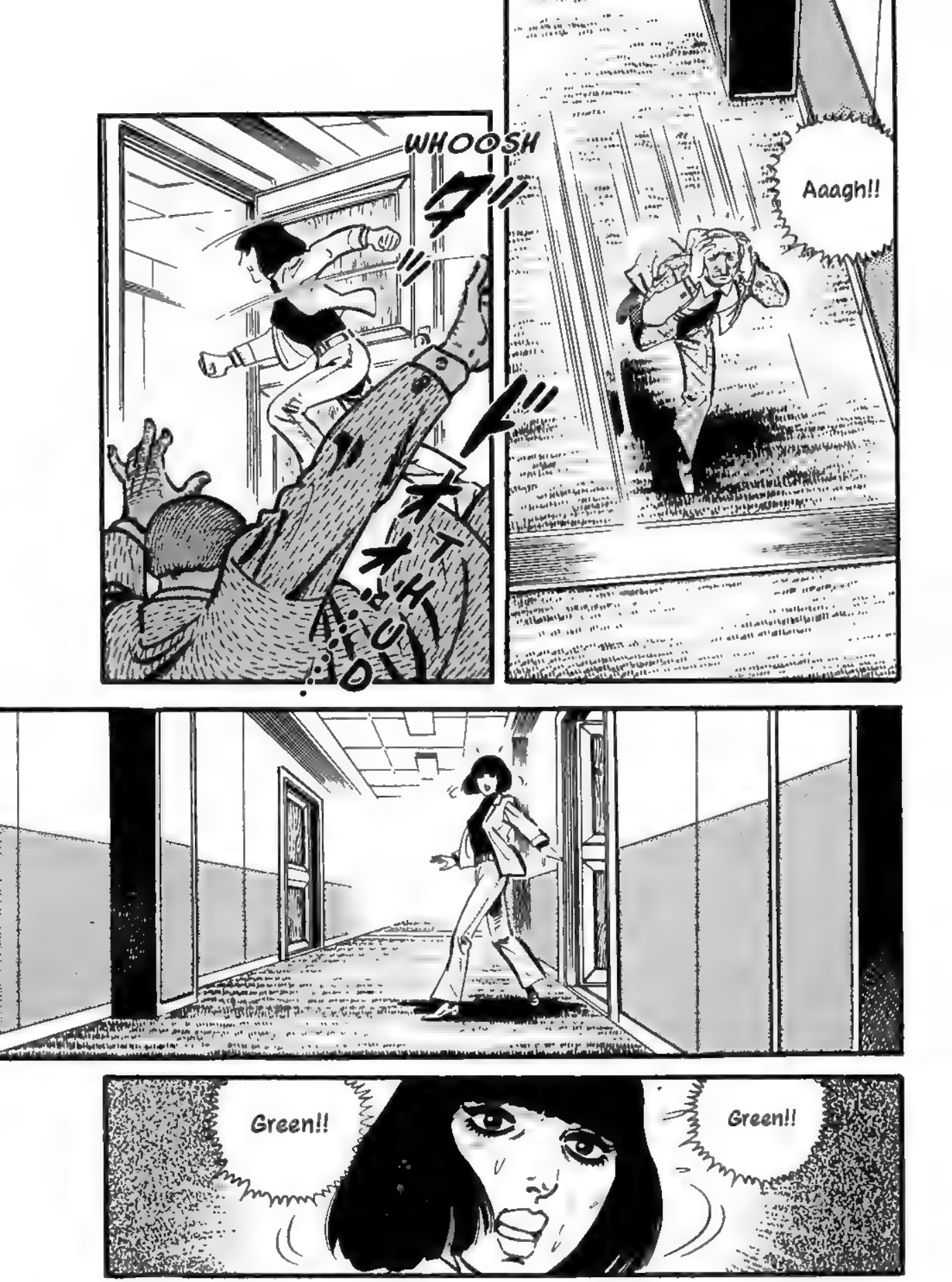
KSHAK

!!

!!
Aaagh!!

CHOP

THWAK
Ugh!!


WHOOSH
Aaagh!!
Green!!
Green!!

.....
But the conference is about to begin!!
It's no use!! He isn't here either!!

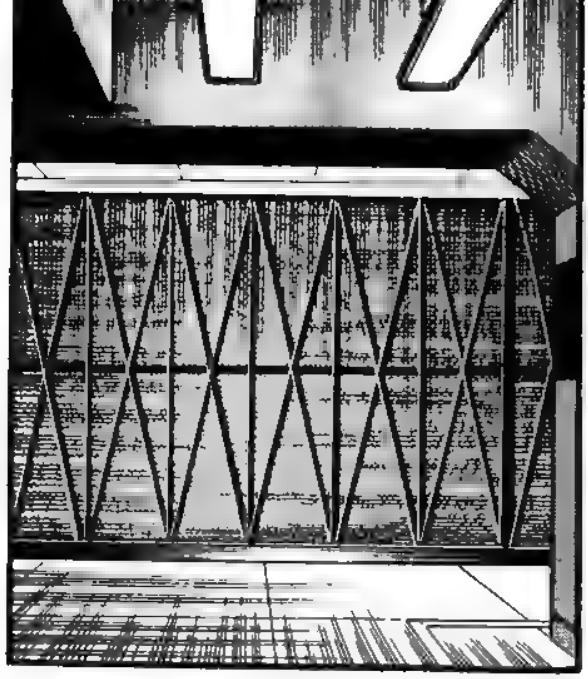
We searched the hall, but didn't find a bomb!
No!
Did you find him?!

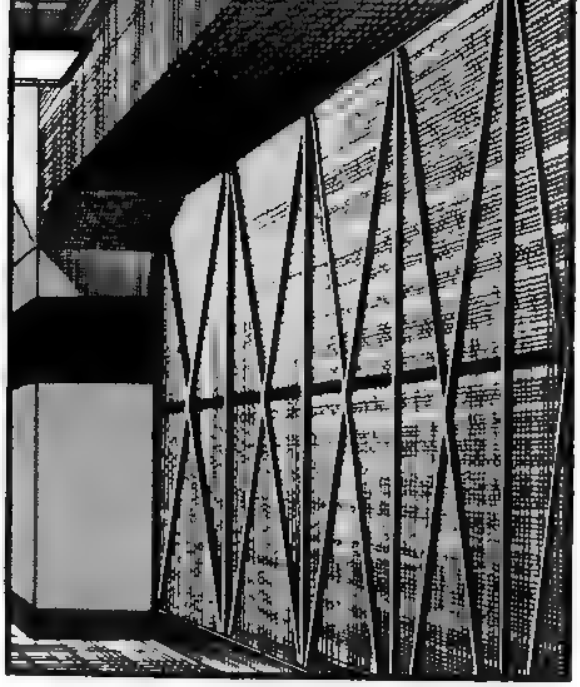
There isn't even time for *that*!
We must evacuate everyone!!

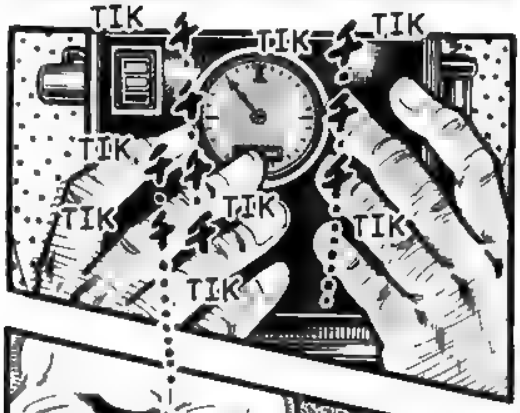
.....

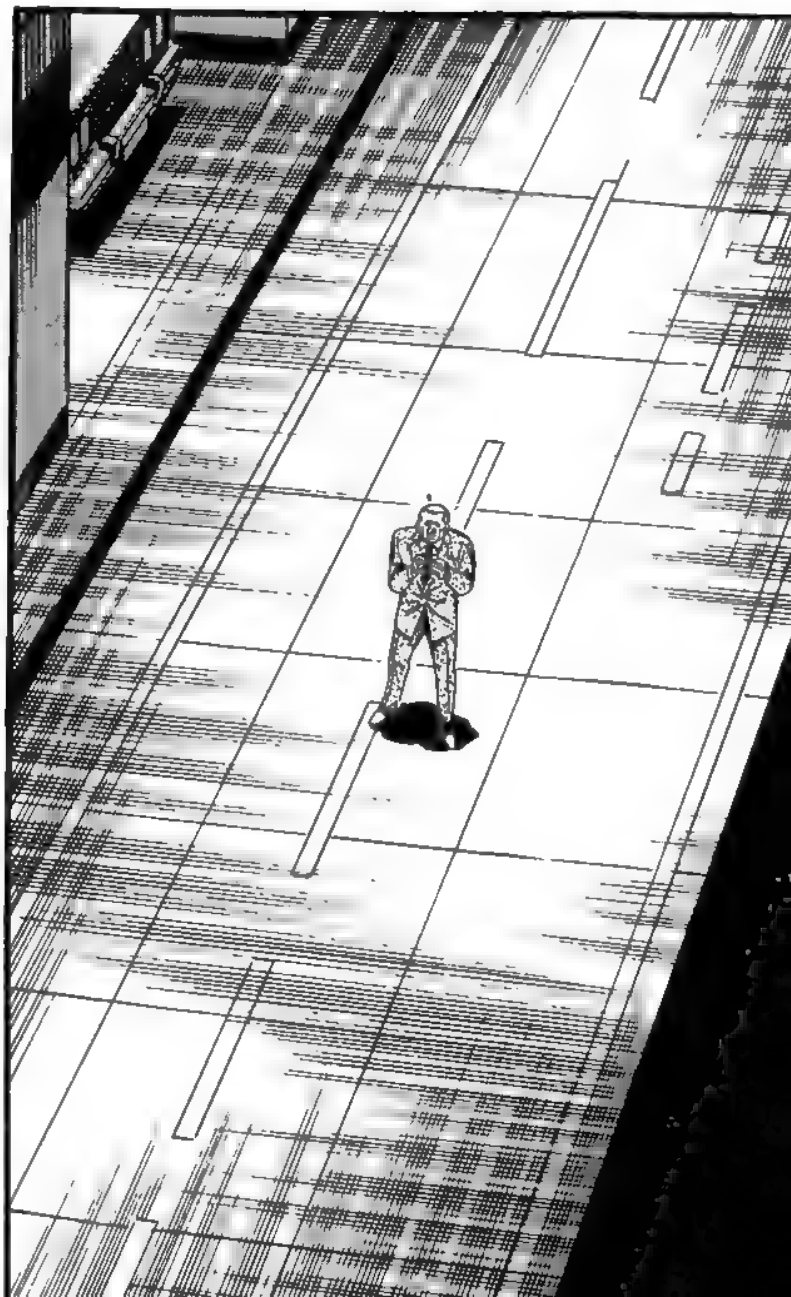
Just find Green!!
A panic would only prevent us from finding Green and the bomb!

Are you the manager ?!
UNDER
No! He's nowhere to be found!!
Is he that way?!
Someone threw the switch to close the fallout shelter again!!
What is it?!
The fallout shelter!!
!!






TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK



My past! My memories!!
Now it will all be gone!!
カチ
TIK
ズ
BOOOM

They planted the bomb in the parking area?!
No...
...it must have been near the hall.

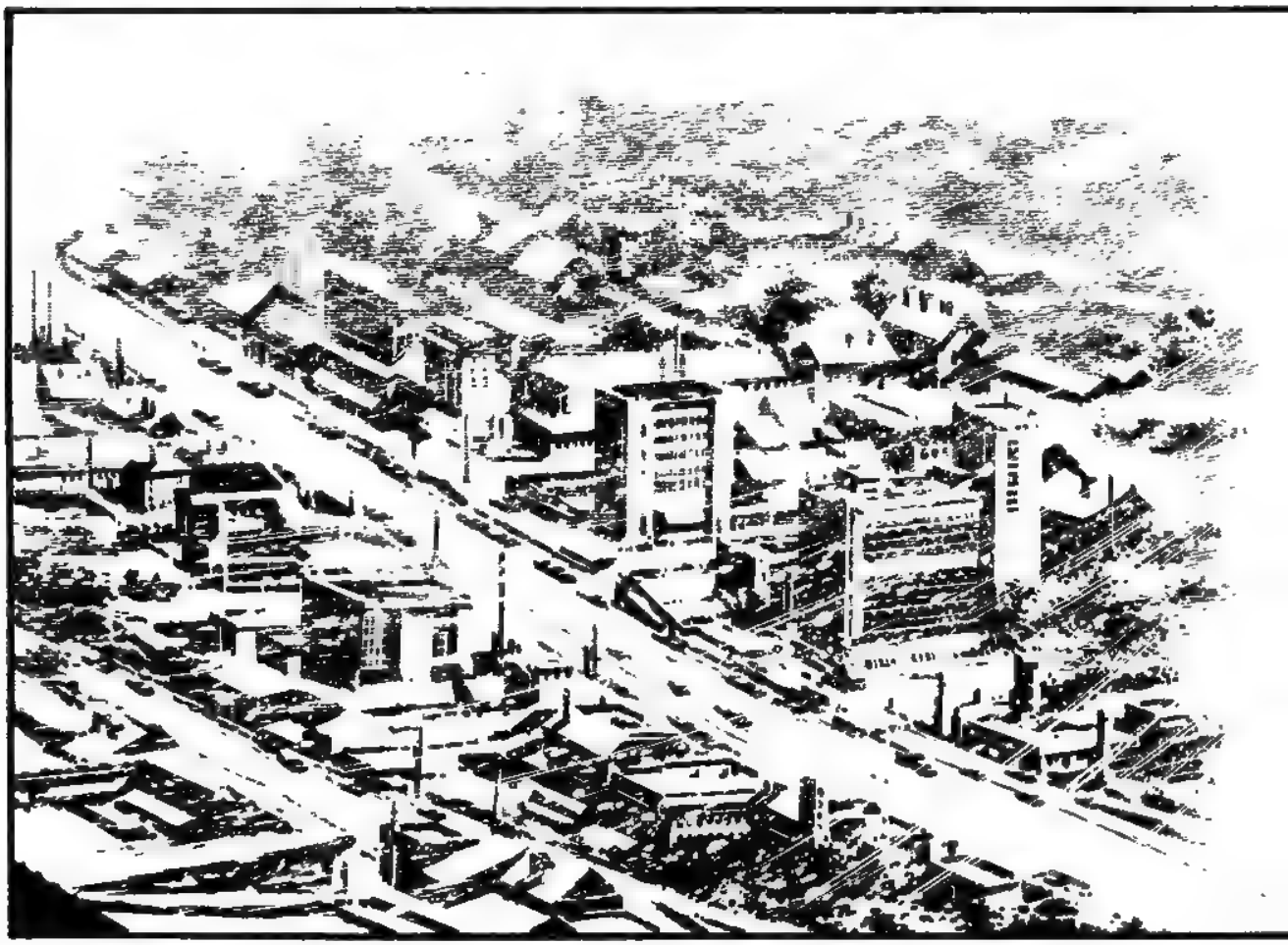
Green couldn't remove the timer and took it underground to minimize casualties.

.....
.....

Wh-What was that?!
An earthquake?
Gyaaah!!

.....
.....
...the hotel will only have to compensate the owners of the cars parked there.
Thanks to him...

!!
Ungh...
!!
Agh!!
WAP
FUMP
CLINK

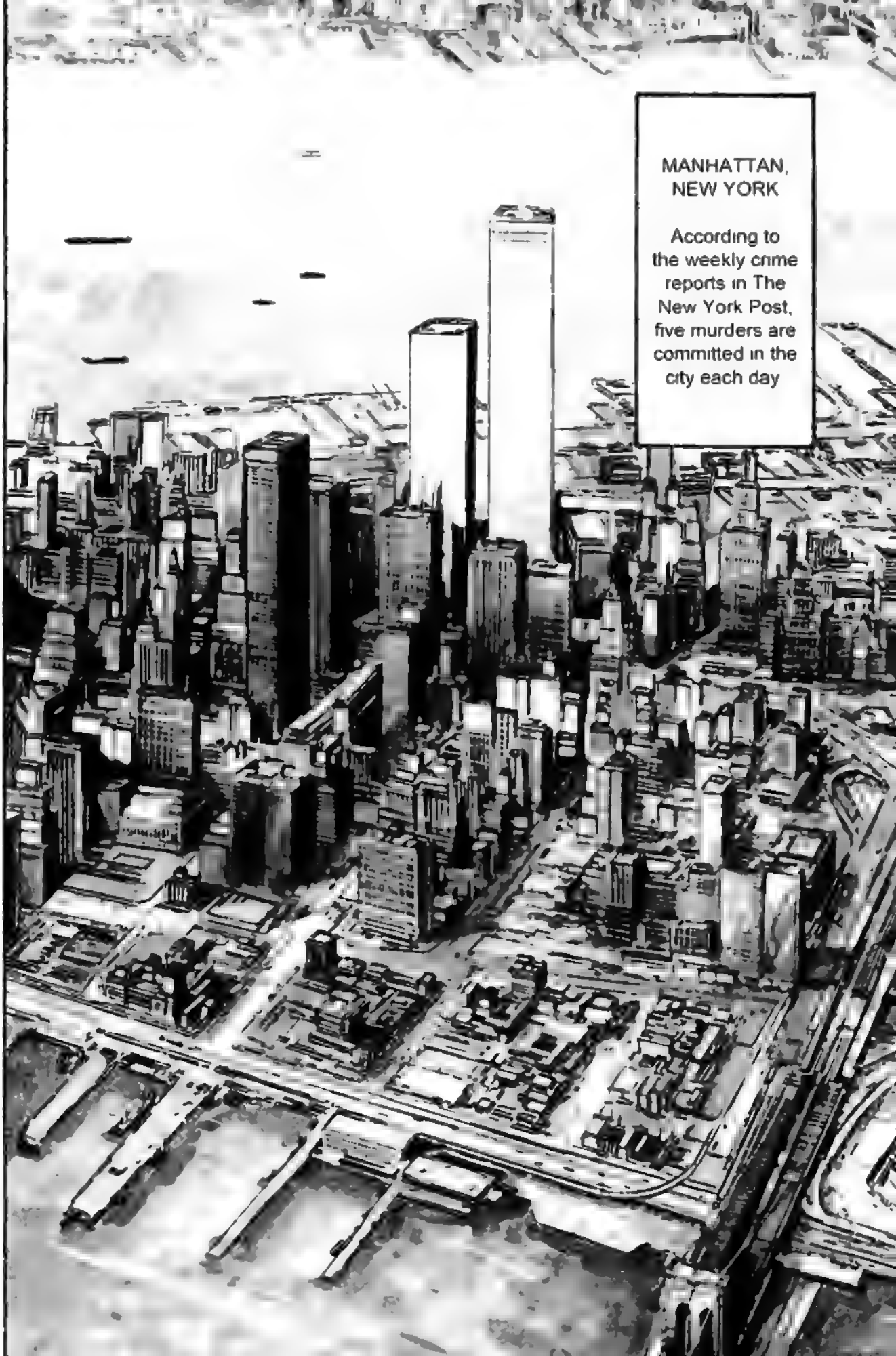


PRODUCTION STAFF
Direction: Takao Saito
Layout: Fumiyasu Ishikawa, Takao Saito
Script: Mitsuo Aimono (assistance), Takao Saito
Art: Fumiyasu Ishikawa, Takashi Ito, Hiro Nishikawa, Taku Koyama, Kazuo Aoki, Kunihiko Yokomizo, Takao Saito

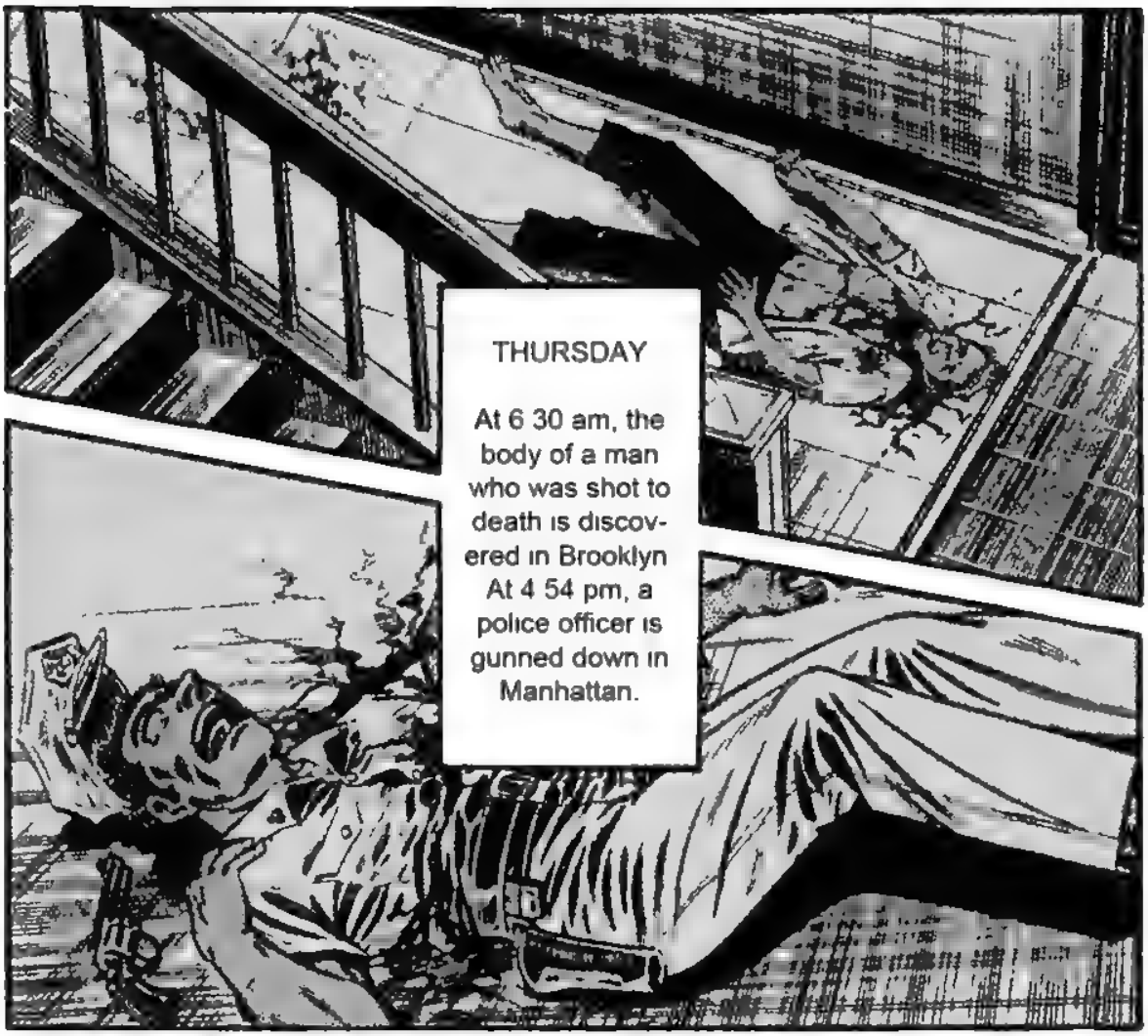
BABLAM
WHOOSH
!!
Whoa!!
SCREECH

SLAM
ガッ
ガッ
I'm fine!
I'm fine!
Are you hurt, Kitty?!
A-Are you all right?!
KRIK
キィィ
ア ア ィ ィ ウ ウ ウ ウ ー ー ー ー
ア ア ィ ィ ウ ウ ウ ウ ー ー ー ー
VILLAGE CORNER

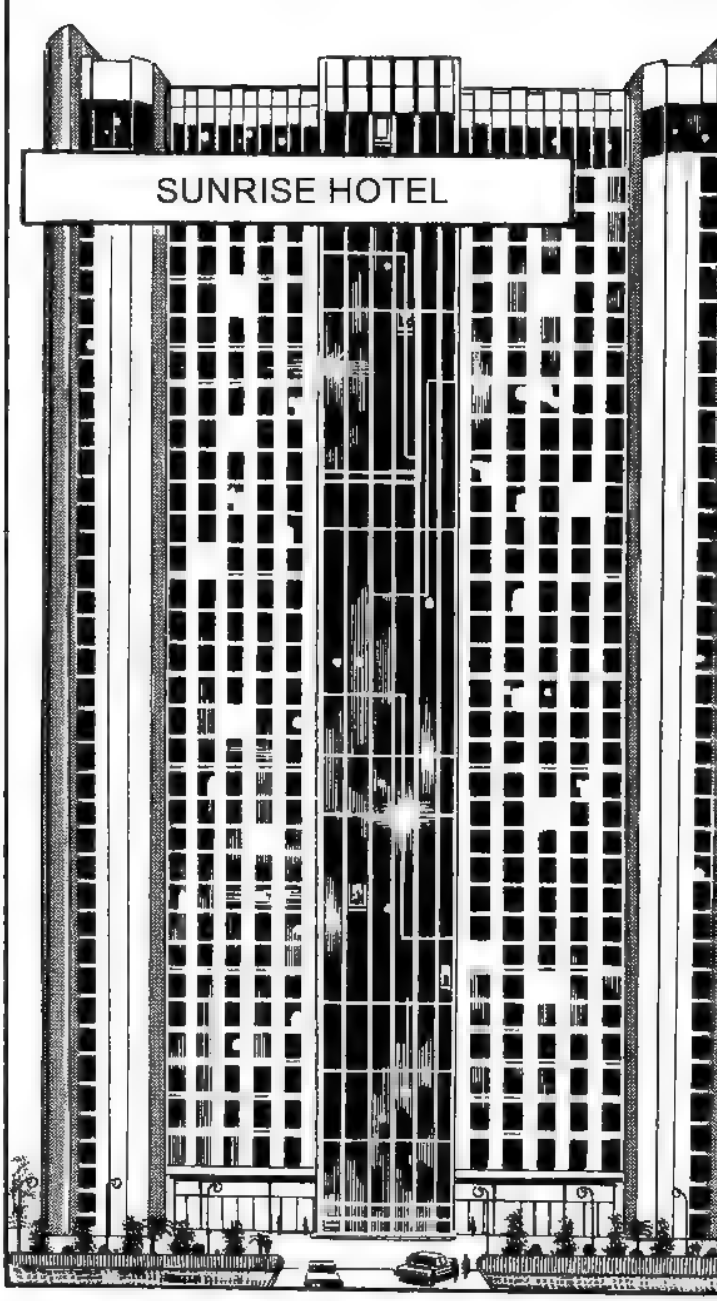
A man just jumped in front of my car!
...to my passengers ?!
What if something had happened...
What passengers?
What?! Where'd they go?!
Huh?!

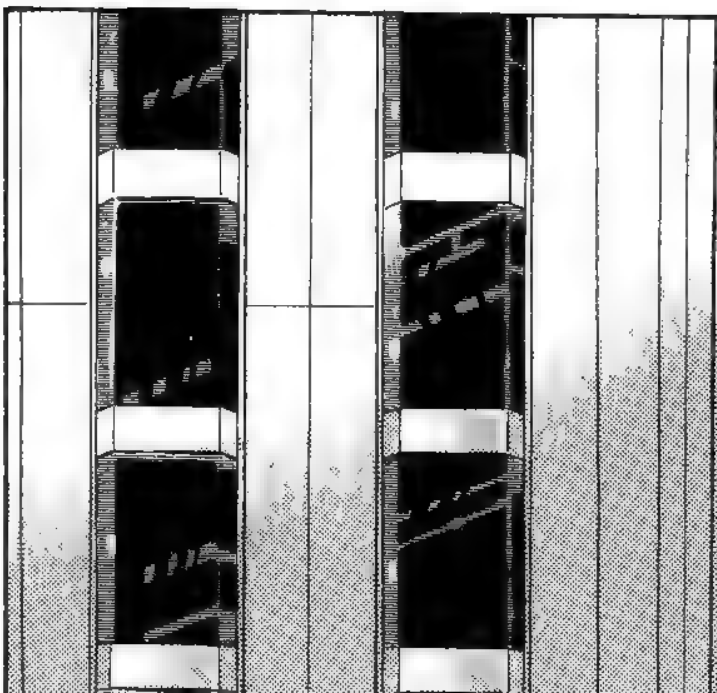

MANHATTAN,
NEW YORK
According to the weekly crime reports in The New York Post, five murders are committed in the city each day

#5 BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS


THURSDAY
At 6 30 am, the body of a man who was shot to death is discovered in Brooklyn At 4 54 pm, a police officer is gunned down in Manhattan.

BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS



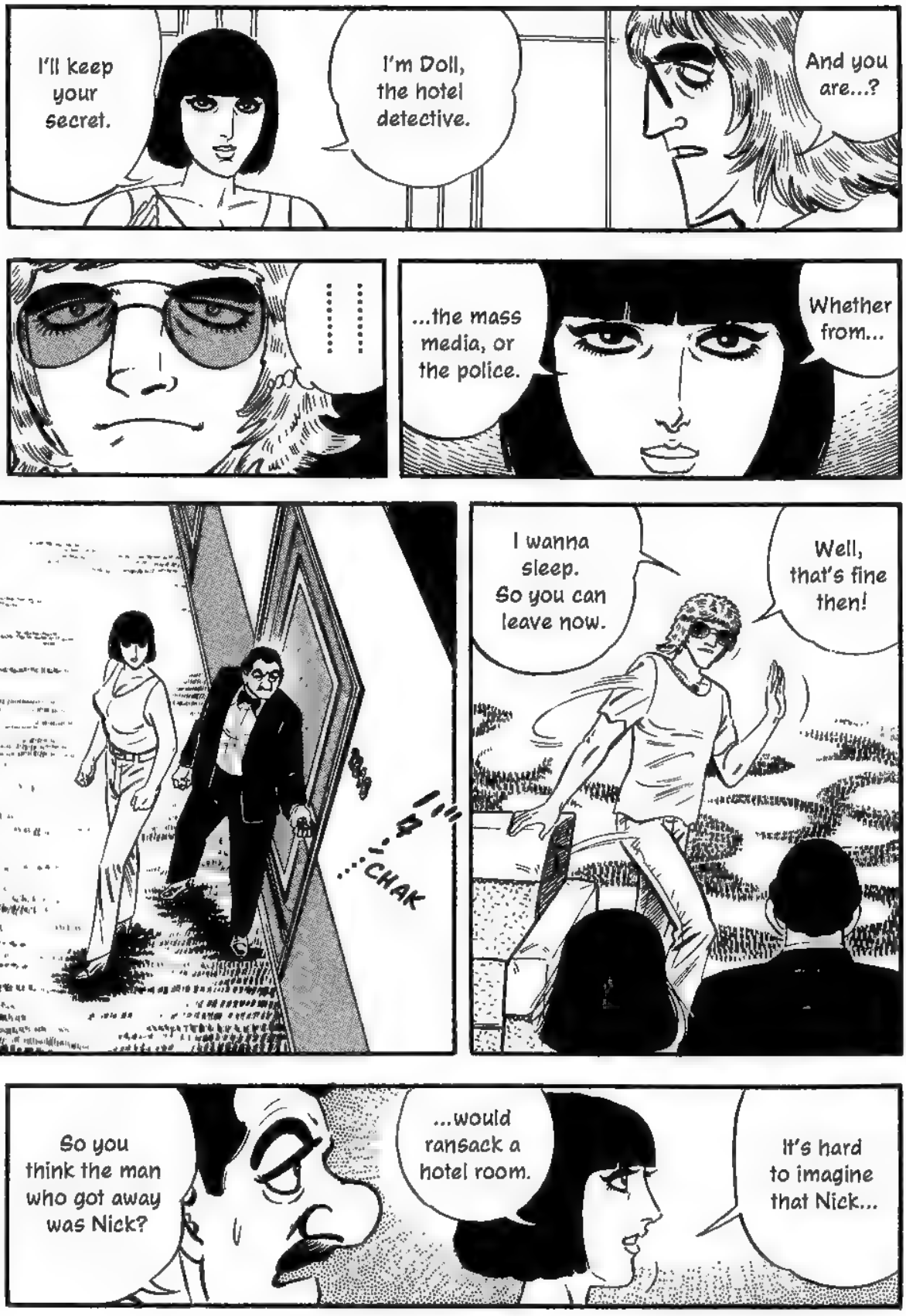


WHOOSH
!!
!!
BALAM

!
WHOOSH
!!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
.....

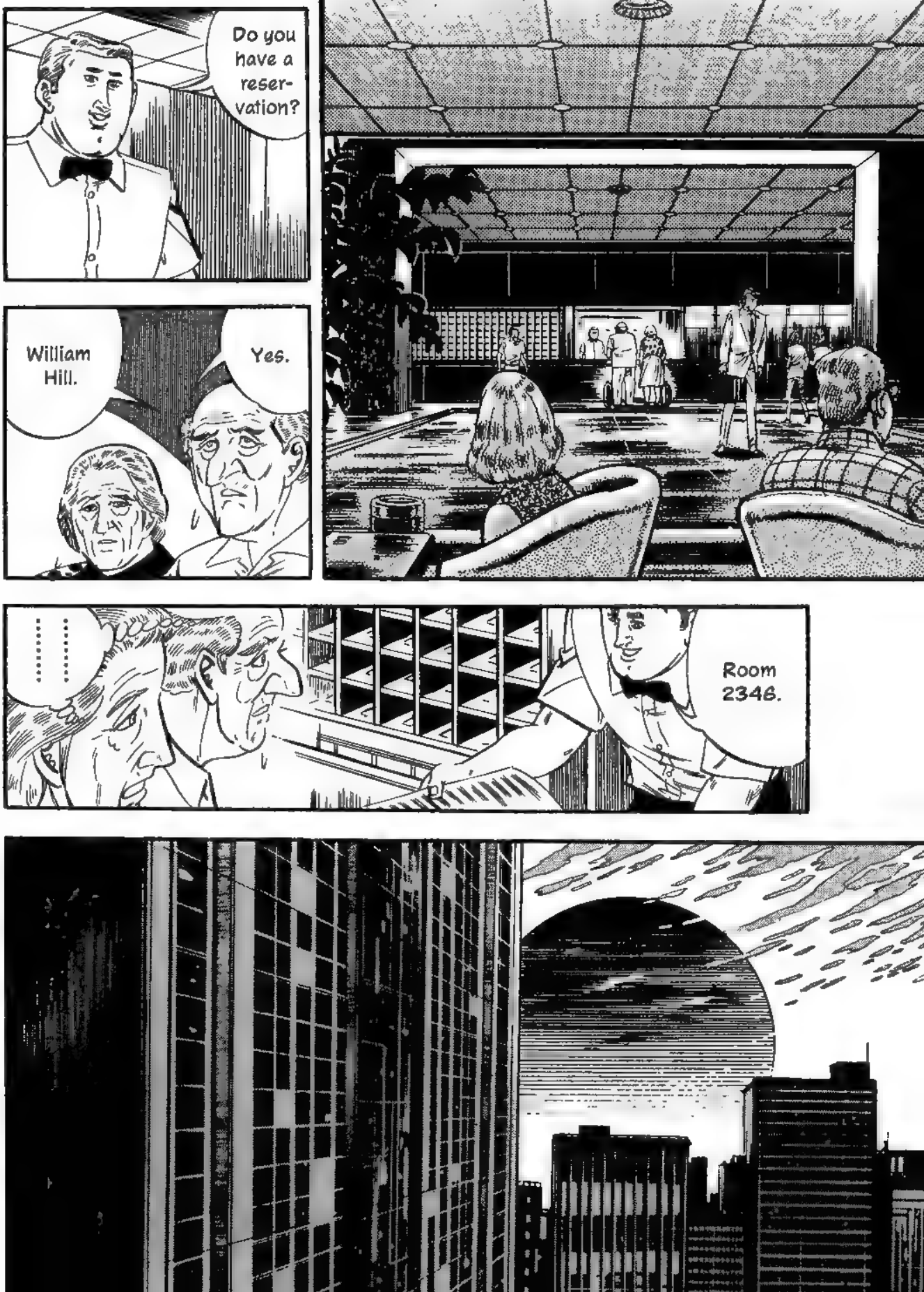
Did he get away?
Yes. Using the other elevator.
Doll!
2851
.....
...and that man was ransacking the place!
I heard a noise, so I came out of the inner room...
And he turned a gun on you?
2846

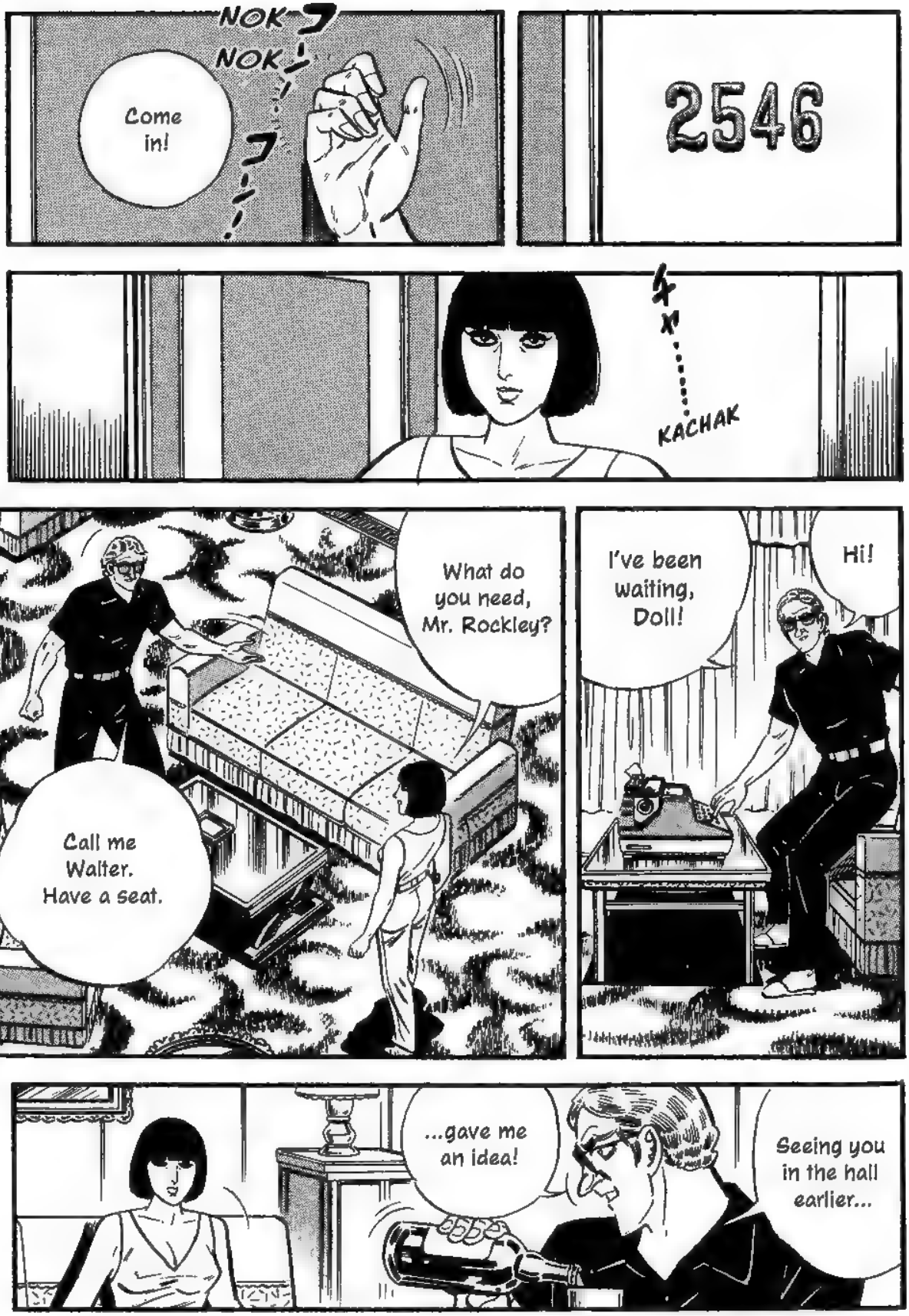
...and he'd have killed me!
Yeah, that's right! I fled back the way I'd come and called you. One misstep...
...you know me?
Oh...
It's our responsibility! My apologies, Mr. Powers!
.....
How could I not know you?!
You're on all the big music television shows! You're the famous *Richard Powers*!
.....
Of course, Mr. Carnes!
That's the name I'm staying under.
It's a secret that I'm staying here. I'm Allan Carnes.


I'll keep your secret.
I'm Doll, the hotel detective.
And you are...?
.....
...the mass media, or the police.
Whether from...
CHAK
I wanna sleep. So you can leave now.
Well, that's fine then!
So you think the man who got away was Nick?
...would ransack a hotel room.
It's hard to imagine that Nick...

...he plans on hiding there for ten days.
Powers is lying low in Room 2846. In order to attract the media's attention...
Oh, is that so?
Maybe he was threatening Mr. Powers.
Nick's a pimp who blackmails his customers.
Aw, I doubt that!
...but he's reserved the room for that long.
I don't know...
But can he really contain himself to that room for ten days?
I doubt he would bring in one of Nick's women!
.....
Then, once the media has noticed his disappearance, he'll appear again!
.....
He hopes it will turn around his declining popularity.

.....
WHISH
Dammit!!
SMAAASH
.....


Do you have a reservation?
William Hill.
Yes.
.....
Room 2346.


NOK
NOK
Come in!
2546
KACHAK
What do you need, Mr. Rockley?
Call me Walter. Have a seat.
I've been waiting, Doll!
Hi!
...gave me an idea!
Seeing you in the hall earlier...

Anything that would make for a good novel?
You must have seen a lot, Doll.
Of course, I *would* repay you...

I'll make the protagonist of my next work a female detective, like you!

SWIP
?

Guys must be all over you... huh?
You're quite a looker!
Huh?

SLAM

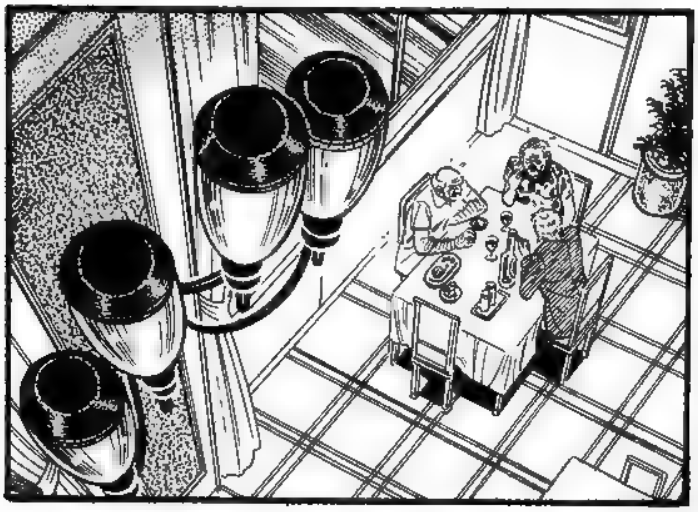
...you should write about a *playboy*!
Instead of a detective...

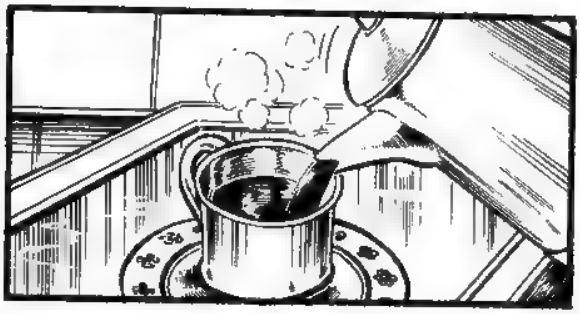
!!
A... Allan?!
Mom! Dad!
...and a patrol car came.
The taxi had an accident on the way here...
...we got a flight as soon as we could.
But like you asked...
You're late!
No one found out you're my parents, did they?!
I'm using the name "William Hill."
Yeah.
You used aliases, right?!
...we've stayed away from you.
...so just like you asked...
We've only ever thought of your success. You said that claiming to be an orphan would arouse the public's sympathy...

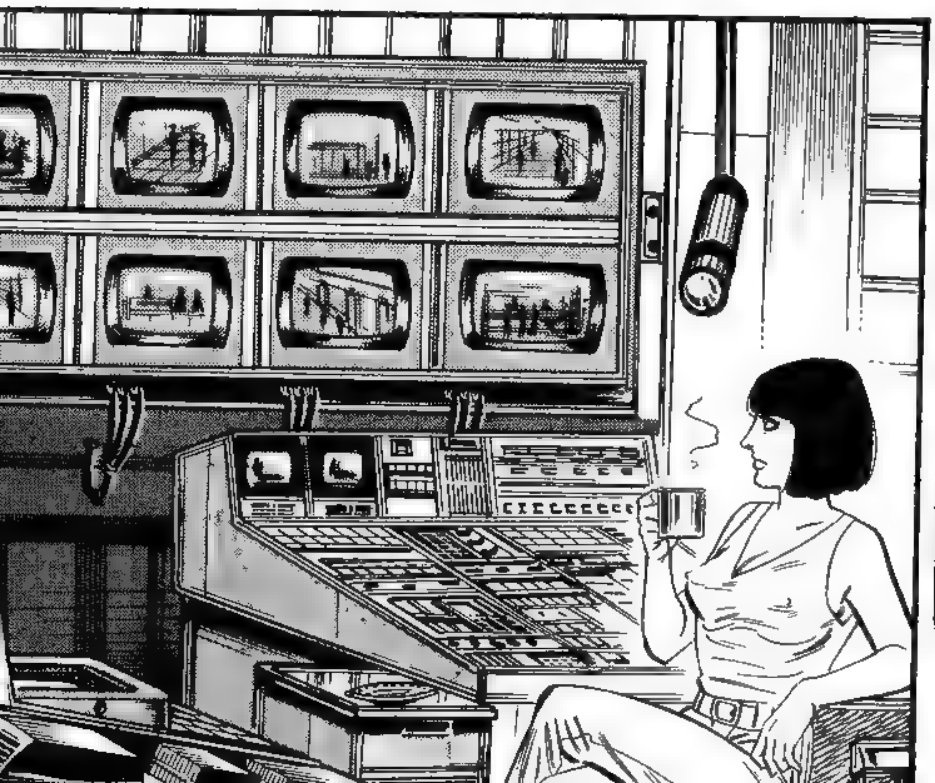
Yeah, something awful!!
Has something happened?
What's the matter, Allan?
.....
...died in my room!!
A girl I picked up on the street...
Tell us about it. We would do anything for you.
Wh... What?!
You gotta!!
Mom... Dad... you gotta help me!!
.....
.....
The media would have a field day with that.
.....
She just... She just *died*!!
I didn't kill her!

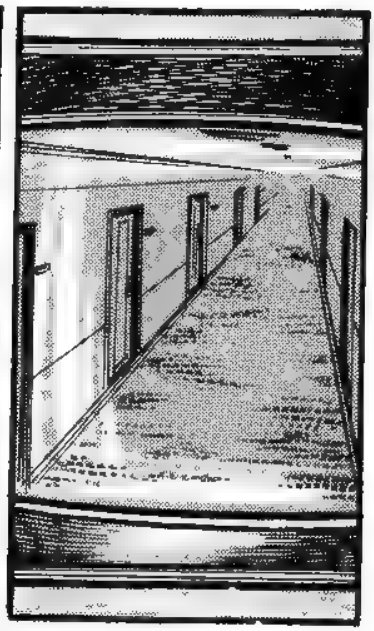
Arrrgh...!
.....
.....
If they make a big deal about this, my career's over!!
I'm done for!!

...we have to get the body out of my room...
Well, first...
Tell us, Allan!
So... what do you want us to do?

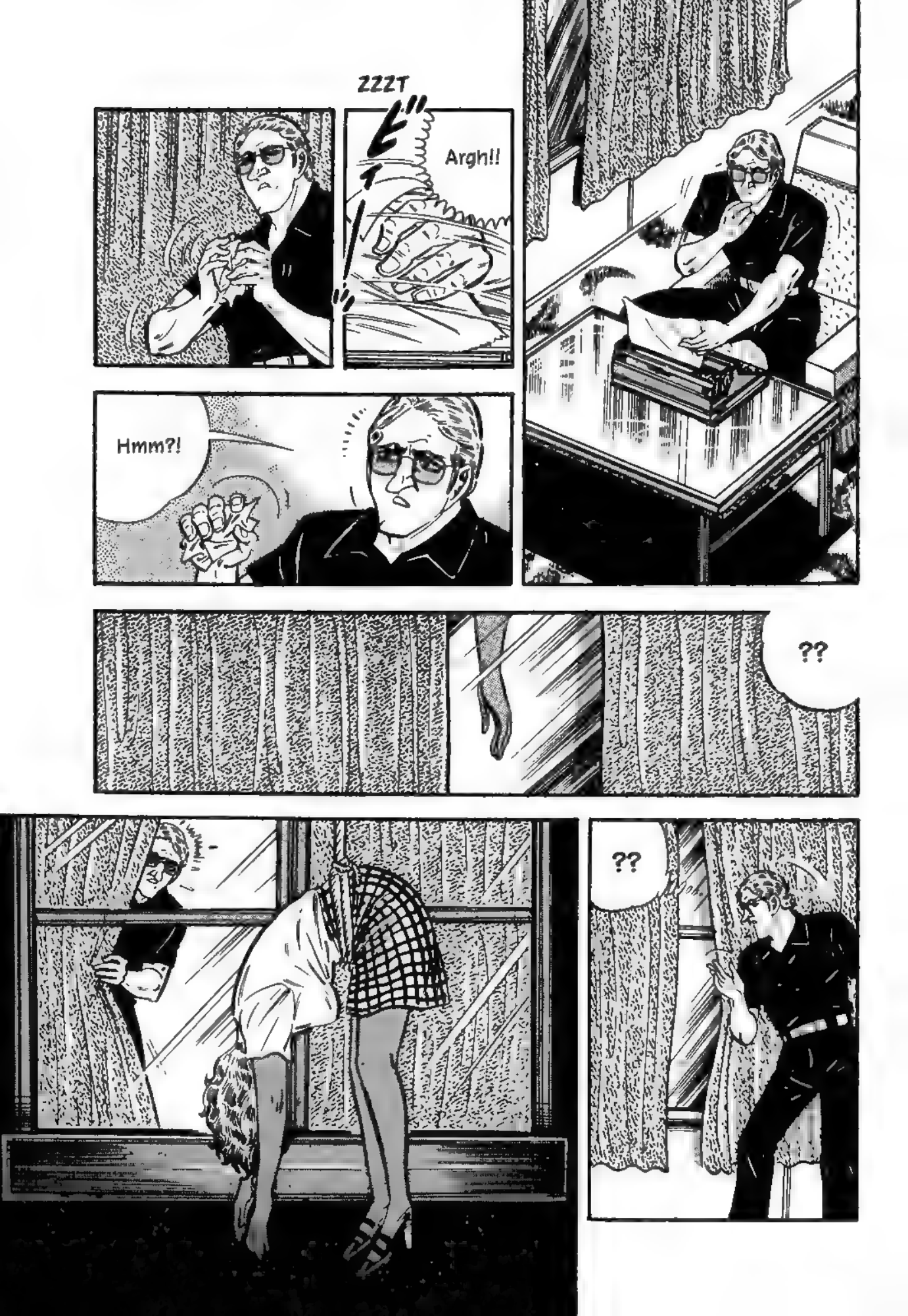








2846


ZZZT
Argh!!
Hmm?!
??
??

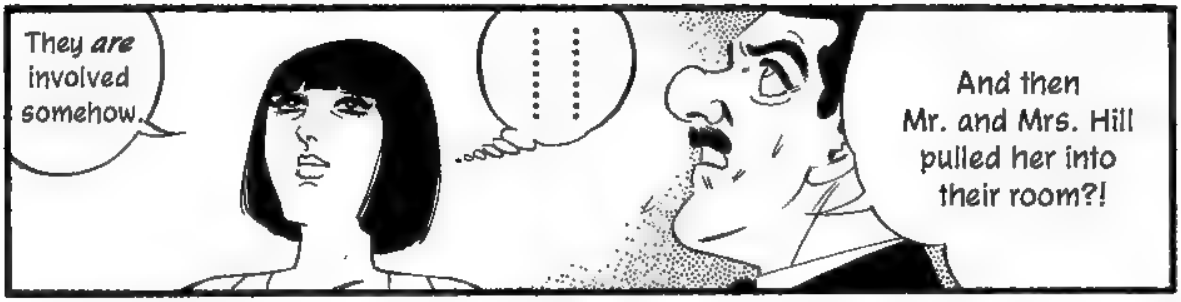
For our dear boy!!
It's all for Allan...!!

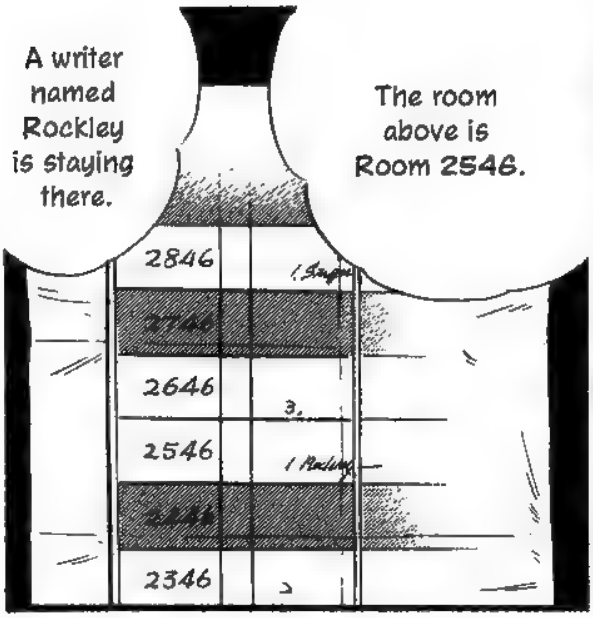
We woke up this morning and there she was!
Hmm. One of Nick's women...

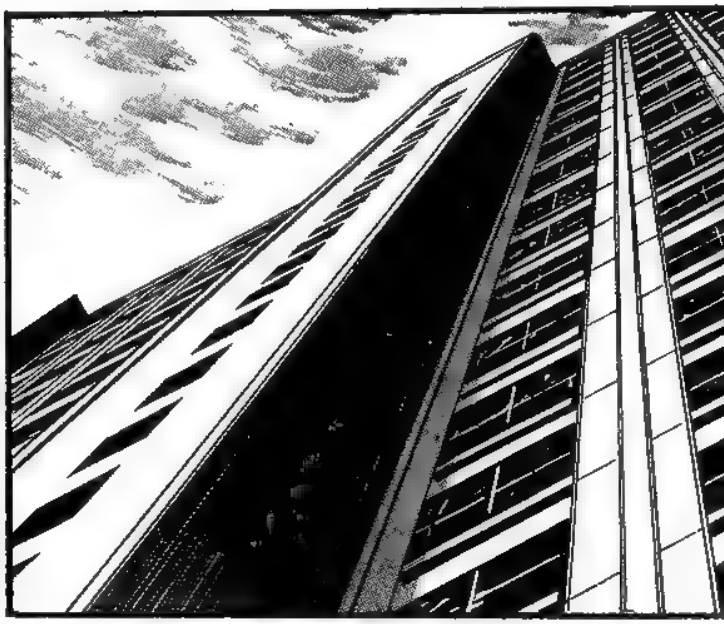
It's Lily.

I told you to make sure the door was locked!
I... I know...
...but...
.....
Imagine! A strange woman sneaking in and just dying!
W-We don't know anything! Anything at all!
Of course not.
We know it has nothing to do with you.
Someone carried the body in here. And she didn't die last night. I'd say she died from a drug overdose.
I did hear she was an addict...
.....
Oooo.

Doll...?
!!
One of Lily's shoes.
There were rope burns around her waist, but it doesn't appear she was raised from below.
!!
So she came from *above*?!
And that's when her shoe fell off!


They *are* involved somehow.
.....
And then Mr. and Mrs. Hill pulled her into their room?!


A writer named Rockley is staying there.
The room above is Room 2546.
2846
2746
2646
2546
2446
2346

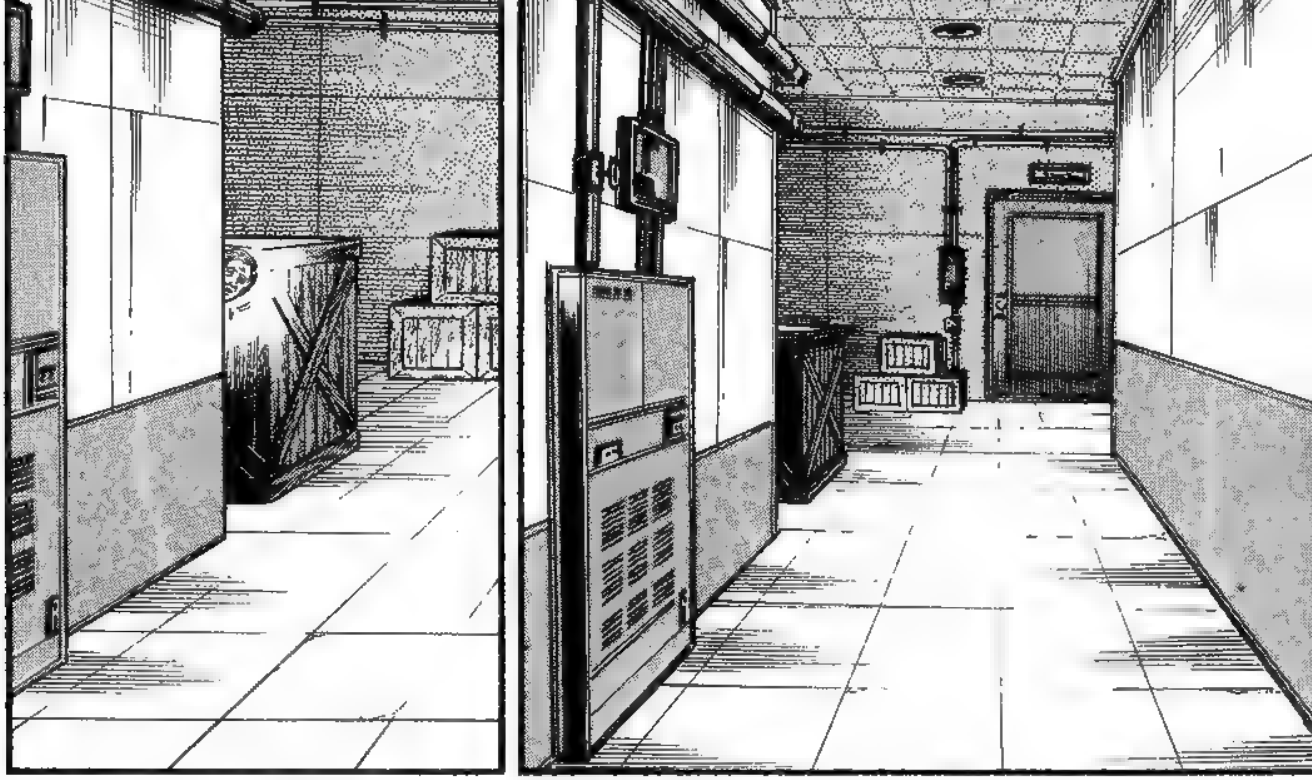


...is either the writer or the singer!
So the one who brought in Lily...

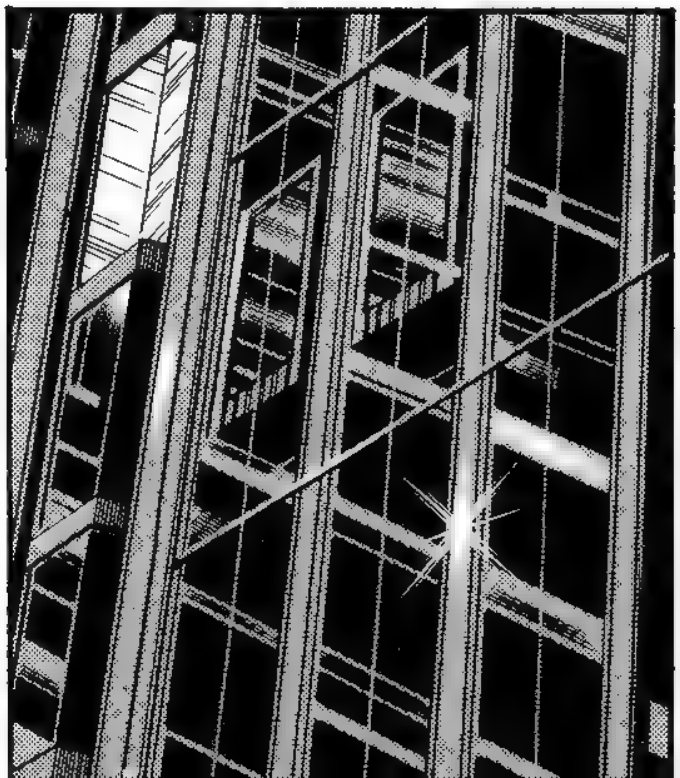
.....

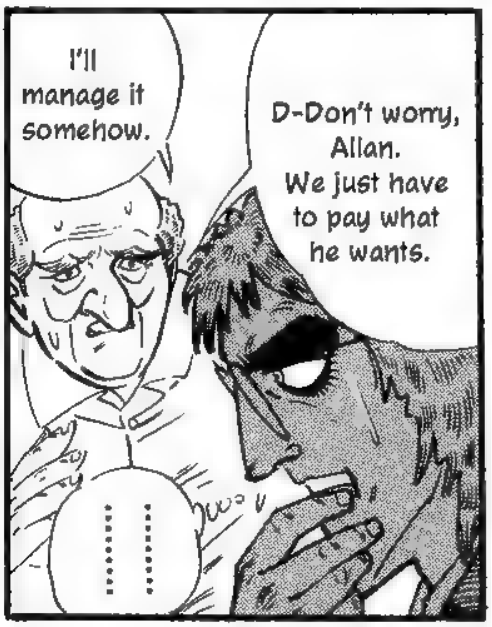
The singer, Richard Powers.
Above that is 2646, where a young couple with a little girl is staying. And above that is 2846...
I think we can rule out the young couple.

?
2346
?
!!
Wh-What's the matter?!
Yes?
K-Kitty!!

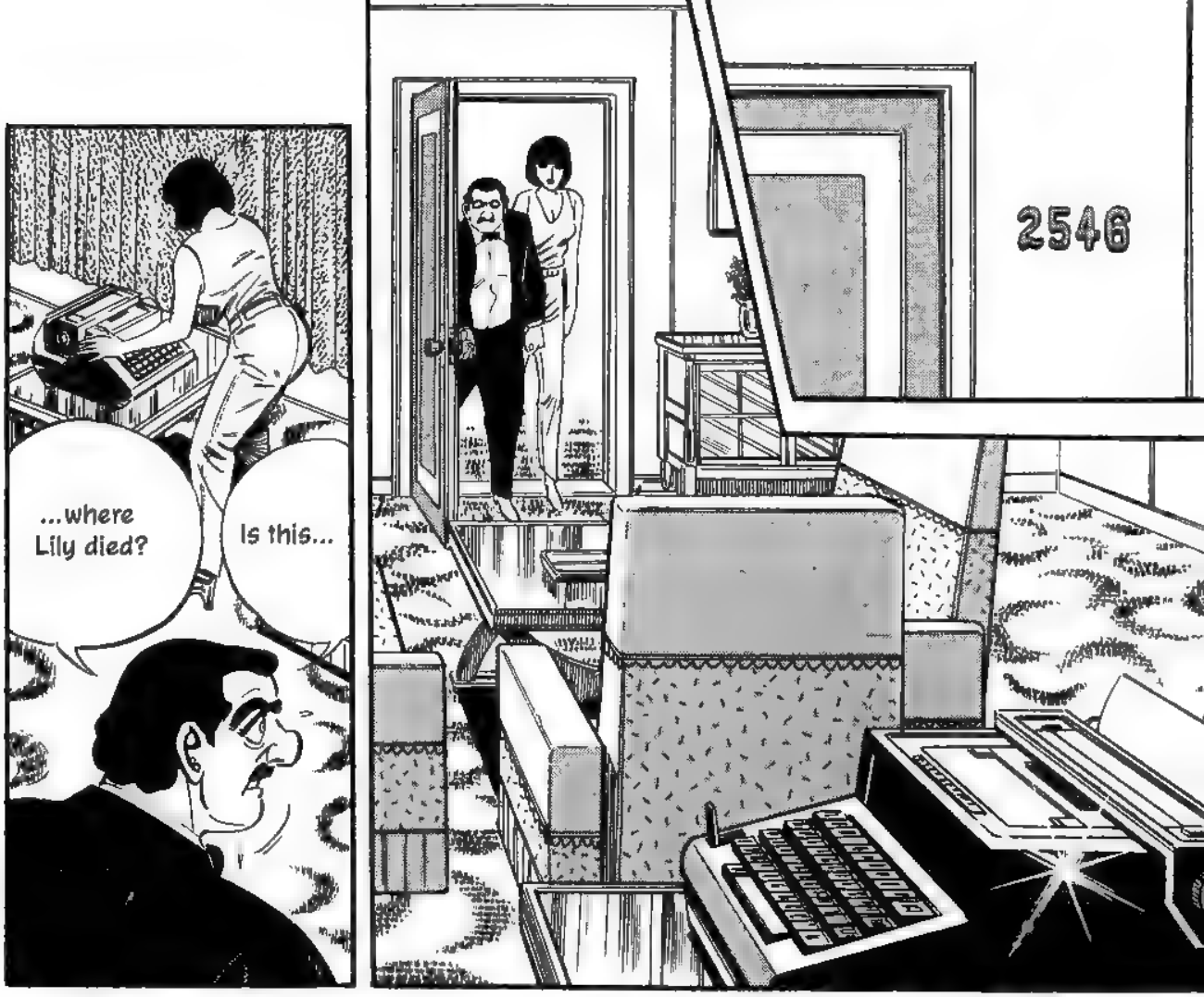


I burned the letter so no one would see it.
……
It's no use!! It was all for nothing!!

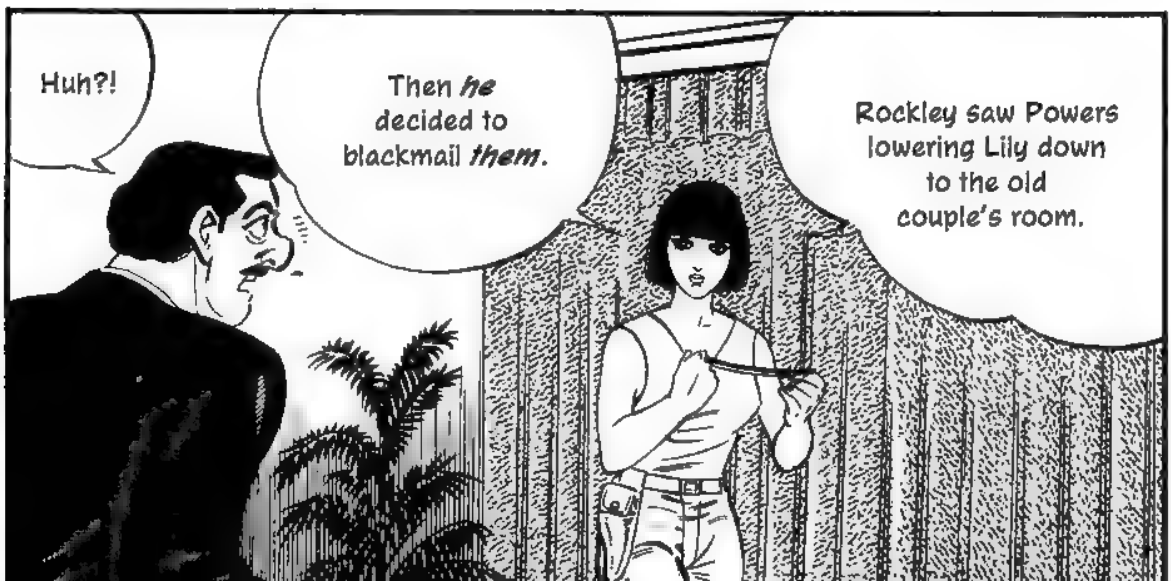



I'll manage it somehow.
D-Don't worry, Allan. We just have to pay what he wants.
……

234B
It's type-written ...
Rockley has left his room!
Doll!

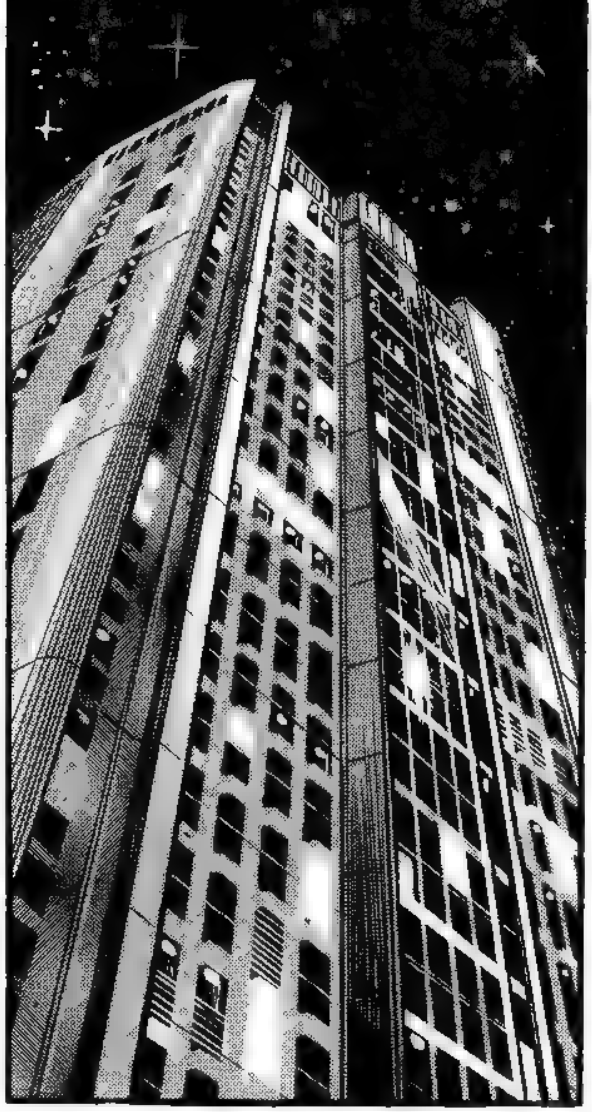

2546
...where Lily died?
Is this...

So *he* brought her into the hotel?!
Huh?!
Nick was blackmailing Powers.


Huh?!
Then *he* decided to blackmail *them*.
Rockley saw Powers lowering Lily down to the old couple's room.

.....
"I know what you did with the body. Come to William Park by 8 o'clock. If you don't, I'll tell the police."
The words he wrote to blackmail them are faintly visible on his typewriter ribbon.
Doll!!

KCHIK
Halt!!
?!
FWIP
WHOOSH
!
What ?!
I'm returning to the hotel.
Call the police.
??
He's getting away!!
D-Doll!!



!!
Where do you think *you're* going?

Your partners in crime died, so you're fleeing?
Wh-What're you talking about?!

.....

The contents of *two* letters remained on Rockley's typewriter ribbon. One letter has been burned.
...and Rockley wouldn't have blackmailed you.
If Lily had died of natural causes, there would have been no need for tricks....
.....
I found it with the old couple's *bodies* in the park!
That's in Room 2346, where an elderly couple was staying. And you received the other letter. *This* letter.
Lily
.....
The other letter is in ashes, so...
What does this mean?
...and got rid of the old couple who knew your secret!
You framed your blackmailer for murder...
D-Don't be ridiculous!!
...for the murders!!
You tried to frame Rockley...

WHOOSH
Shut up!
Shut up!!
You killed them as they waited for Rockley in the park!
.....
WHOOM
FWAK
MMPH!
UGH!

Mom and Dad would do *anything* for me! Mother would *never* resent me for killing her!!
WHAM
WHAM
Damn! Damn! Damn!!
"Mom"... and "Dad"?!
!!
They died *happily*!!
They were both happy...! Happy to help me...!

I almost got hauled away for murder!

.....

I mean it! Thanks!
Th-Thank you, Doll! You sure saved my bacon!
.....

But you're still guilty of attempted blackmail...
...Mr. Rockley!
SATURDAY
At 7:20 pm in the Bronx, a mother and her baby are killed. At 8:00 pm in Manhattan, an elderly couple is fatally stabbed.

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